■ ENTERTAINMENT / A2-1
Tony Butala of the Lettermen: Not in it for the money

■ SPORTS / A22
Pacquiao arriving today to hero's welcome

■ BUSINESS / B1
RP borrowings reached P614.7B in 2005

■ ACROSS / A15
Isabela, Aurora folk flee flooding as 'Agaton' brings rains, landslides

Pacquiao, celebrities eyed for Cha-cha drive

By Jerry E. Esplanada

IMAGINE THE LIKES OF Filipino boxing idol Manny Pacquiao and Miss International Lara Quigaman joining other sports luminaries and movie and TV stars in rooting for

PACQUIAO/ A17

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PHILIPPINE DAILY
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BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Friday, January 27, 2006 ★★ 7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 50 P18 website: www.inq7.net

Pray, Silent Majority movement tells Filipinos

By Christian V. Esguerra

IF ALL ELSE FAILS, THERE'S PRAYER TO turn to.

Or so hopes a group led by a Roman Catholic bishop which is organizing a movement to rally Filipinos behind the power of prayer as a way of dealing with the political and economic crises.

The Silent Majority Prayer Movement will hold

PRAY/ A18

Use of ₱100-M fund probed

Marcos loot released during '04 elections

By Philip C. Tubeza

ABOUT P100 MILLION of the Marcos Swiss bank deposits recovered by the government financed the Department of Agriculture's farm inputs program—which critics claim was used to support President Macapagal-Arroyo's 2004 election campaign—documents from the department showed.

A total of P98.8 million from the Marcos fund was allocated to 13 regional field units (RFU) of the Department of Agriculture in urban areas like Quezon City and Iloilo City.

Sixty percent of the money was released on May 3, 2004, a week before the elections, according to the documents.

The money was part of the P544 million set aside for the Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) hybrid rice program, which was allegedly used to induce public officials to support Ms Arroyo's candidacy and ensure her victory in areas where the funds were distributed.

The P544 million itself was

USE OF/ A18

FILIPINO OF THE YEAR
Members of Team Philippines, the overwhelming choice of the INQUIRER for Filipino of the Year, pose with INQUIRER chair Marixi Prieto and president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez (center) at Wednesday night's fete for them at the INQUIRER office. The Filipino athletes earned the honor, accorded every year to a living Filipino who makes a positive impact on the life of the nation, for their inspiring performance in last year's 23rd Southeast Asian Games. ROMY HOMILLADA

PSG 'not immune' to destabilizers–Gonzalez

By Armand N. Nocum and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO STILL "trusts" the Presidential Security Group, but the elite force is "not immune" from recruitment by groups bent on unseating her, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said yesterday.

Gonzalez said the President was not acting out of paranoia when she transferred PSG chief Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit to another unit. But he said the government was well aware of the fact that "you always have to keep your guard."

"That does not mean there are people who are happy all the time ... in the chain of command. Even the PSG is not immune from attempts by destabilizers [to lure it to their cause]," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER.

The justice secretary said even Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr., by his own admission, was the target of such a group.

"But he rejected their overtures," Gonzalez said.

He said Ms Arroyo was just being cautious, given the reported ongoing recruitment of junior military officers for a coup d'etat.

At the Palace, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita insisted that Ms Arroyo was not afraid of the military.

"There is no reason to believe and even think that the President would ever be thought of as being afraid of the military. She is the Commander in Chief and she is the one who gives orders and utilizes the military establishment to serve the national interest, to provide security for the republic," Ermita said, when asked to comment on Ms Arroyo's perceived wariness of the military.

PSG/ A4

Gov't asked to allot ₱10B for ML victims

By Philip C. Tubeza

SEN. JOKER ARROYO YESTERday asked the Department of Finance and the Department of Budget and Management to set aside $200 million of the Marcos Swiss bank deposits recovered by the government to compensate the human rights victims of martial law.

"We request that the peso equivalent of $200 million be restored and set aside, and that the amount be transferred to a trust account, which cannot be touched in any except for the purpose as stated by [the Senate bill]," Arroyo wrote Finance Secretary Margarito Teves and Budget Secretary Romulo Neri.

At the present exchange rate of P52.46 to a dollar, $200 million is worth P10.49 billion.

Arroyo made the request after budget officials said only P8 billion had been set aside for the victims, or P2 billion short of the P10 billion set aside by administration-sponsored human rights compensation bills in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

"The two bills speak of P10 bil-

GOV'T ASKED/ A18

Davide: No politics, I just want to help

By Jolene R. Bulambot
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—RETIRED CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday defended his decision to accept his appointment as President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on electoral reforms, saying it had nothing to do with politics.

"I do not think it's politics-related in the concept of politics in the minds of those who asked me that before. Politics, for me, is running for political positions and I said so that I would not run ... for an elective post. I don't want a position that is related to politics," he said.

Davide told the INQUIRER in an interview that he accepted the post because he believed that he could help institute structural reforms to achieve an honest and credible election process in the country.

As presidential adviser, he said he would be in a position to address electoral concerns and "the

DAVIDE/ A18

FQS REMEMBERED
A mural depicting the tumultuous events of the First Quarter Storm of 1970 is unveiled by FQS veteran Bienvenido Lumbera (left) and Don Bagatsing (representing Manila Mayor Lito Atienza) in front of the old Congress building (now the National Museum). The unveiling on Thursday marked the 36th anniversary of the pitched battle between Marcos troops and unarmed activists. REM ZAMORA

SWS: One thing constant is pride in being Filipino

By Jamie Alarcon
PDI Research

AMID ECONOMIC UNCERTAINTY, POLITical instability and the exodus of Filipinos for abroad, independent pollster Social Weather Stations says it has found one thing constant in the various surveys that it has conducted through the years—pride in being Filipino.

"Pride in being Filipino is very high and impervious to crises," SWS president Mahar Mangahas said yesterday in a presentation of the 2006 SWS Survey Review at the Asian Institute of Management Conference Center in Makati.

"Public morale and equanimity is dented but indestructible," Mangahas said.

Yearend figures in 2005 showed that four out of every five Filipinos would greet the New Year with hope rather than with fear, and feel very proud to be Filipino.

The annual recap of SWS findings included results from the quarterly Social Weather Surveys and the annual Survey of Enterprises on Corruption.

Another bright spot in Mangahas' 70-slide presentation was how the Filipinos surveyed continued to prefer democracy "even though it was not working well lately."

In September 2005, 44 percent of those surveyed were "satisfied with how democracy works," and 58 percent "always preferred democracy" against the 19 percent

SWS: ONE/ A5

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon will have cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers. There will be widespread rains over the eastern section of Luzon particularly Aurora and Quezon. These may trigger flashfloods and landslides. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY CYRIL L BONABENTE, PDI RESEARCH/01/27/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Partly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Partly Cloudy
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Judge recalls warrants vs GIs

OLONGAPO CITY—THE JUDGE HANDLING THE Subic rape case has recalled the arrest warrant issued against the four accused United States Marines and deferred hearings on the case until after the Department of Justice has completed its review of the findings of state prosecutors.

Judge Renato Dilag of the regional trial court here on Thursday withdrew the arrest order—issued on Jan. 13 and returned unserved—as he considered Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis to be already in the jurisdiction of the court after having surrendered to US Embassy authorities.

The US Embassy took custody of the accused soldiers—originally six, but two were later cleared—shortly after the alleged rape last Nov. 2, 2005 —invoking a provision of the Philippine-US Visiting Forces Agreement which allows US authorities to hold accused servicemen until the end of court proceedings.

Dilag said he took "judicial notice" of the treaty whose constitutionality has been upheld five times by the Supreme Court.

The judge said he also took into account the ongoing negotiations between the Philippine and US governments to settle the custody issue by diplomatic means.

"The court shall proceed with its mandate to give justice where it is due promptly and in accordance with our judicial process," Dilag said in his order.

Defense lawyers petitioned for the arrest warrant to be withdrawn, as they feared the possibility of their clients being arrested whenever they appeared in court.

But another defense petition for a review of the Dec. 27, 2005 resolution of the prosecutors finding probable cause for rape with conspiracy, would freeze the case for one to two months, Dilag said.

This was why the accused could not be immediately arraigned or read the formal charges, he said.

Dilag also denied for lack of merit a motion from Smith's lawyer seeking to stop the judge from making statements to the press. He said some media reports misquoted him or took him out of context.

State prosecutors have re-filed motion to re-include the servicemen's Filipino driver Timoteo Soriano Jr. in the charge.

Dilag denied the motion last week because of a violation of the three-day rule notice for hearing. He set the hearing on the motion for Friday. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Rival Moro factions clash

FIGHTING HAS BROKEN OUT BETWEEN RIval factions of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front in Maguindanao, highlighting what analysts have said could be a split among the rebels, the Reuters news agency reported yesterday.

It reported military officials and a rebel spokesman as saying hundreds of people had fled a remote Maguindanao village after some 200 MILF members occupied the area following two days of fighting.

Army Lt. Col. Franklin del Prado said the fighting was between MILF's radical faction with ties to foreign and local militants and its larger moderate group.

Eid Kabalu, an MILF spokesman, said the two factions were fighting over a corn farm in the village, adding that it would not affect peace talks with the government.

EO 464 killed wiretap probe–Golez

By Michael Lim Ubac

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 464 IS TO blame for the failure of the House of Representatives to get to the bottom of the "Hello Garci" controversy despite a seven-month investigation, Parañaque City Rep. Roilo Golez said yesterday.

"The diabolical EO 464 killed the Hello Garci investigation," Golez said, a day after the five House committees jointly conducting the inquiry into tapped phone conversations allegedly between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano discussing poll results in May 2004 wrapped up.

Golez recalled that the EO was issued by the President after the Senate investigated the government's million-dollar contract with the American firm, Venable LLP, to lobby the US Congress to support Charter change in the Philippines.

The EO prevents government officials from testifying in congressional investigations without the approval of the President.

"But the real target of EO 464 to my mind was the Hello Garci tape hearing and related matters like 'jueteng' and the fertilizer fund mess," Golez said.

The chairs of the House committees, backed by the majority, ended the investigation without resolving the authenticity of the audio tapes or the identities of those whose voices were caught discussing possible election fraud while the canvassing of votes was still going on in late May 2004.

Ms Arroyo has apologized for a "lapse of judgment" in talking to an election official but she did not identify him or admit to any wrongdoing.

Administration congressmen were to quick to say they should not be blamed for the opposition's failure to obtain testimony in the hearings that would link Ms Arroyo to election fraud.

Although Garcillano did not deny talking to Ms Arroyo by phone at least once, he said this was long after the certificates of canvass had been forwarded to Congress by the Commission on Elections for official tallying.

Rep. Antonio Cuenco (Lakas-CMD, Cebu City) and Rep. Eduardo Veloso (NPC, Leyte), both members of the joint committee, said the panels' members deserved to be commended for successfully blocking efforts to use the investigation process for political purposes.

"The committees gave each and every member the opportunity to speak up and inquire based on House rules. While a lot of issues needed to be resolved, we did not lose sight of our main task which is to come up with the necessary remedial legislation," Veloso said.

Makati Rep. Teodoro Locsin, chair of the the committee on suffrage and electoral reforms, said one thing was certain: The legislative powers of the House have their limits.

He said the lower chamber, through congressional inquiries in aid of legislation, cannot conduct a formal investigation of a sitting President.

Unlike the US Federal Bureau of Investigation and its justice department, he said Philippine institutions under the aegis of Malacañang were not expected to follow through on the recommendations and findings of congressional inquiries.

Palace gives bishops nat'l situation briefing

By Christian V. Esguerra

A KEY MALACAÑANG OFFICIAL has given the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines President Macapagal-Arroyo's interpretation of the national situation, just three days before the prelates are to draft an all-important pastoral letter that is expected to touch on Ms Arroyo's troubled presidency.

The INQUIRER has learned that Cabinet Secretary Ricardo Saludo gave a talk before the bishops last Tuesday on "how to restore or promote moral values in Philippine political life based on your experience and knowledge."

Saludo, who is also the deputy presidential spokesperson, was the last speaker at the opening of the CBCP's week-long annual seminar, which is to precede its plenary assembly on Saturday.

He spoke for about an hour, according to a Church official.

CBCP leaders have been tight-lipped about the affair which was held at the Pope Pius XII Catholic Center in Manila. The venue was also off-limits to the media.

Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez yesterday confirmed that Saludo was a speaker but did not elaborate.

"We wanted a complete picture of the situation. I think he helped in giving us a different side," he said in a phone interview.

The day Saludo spoke was called the "Day of Listening" in the CBCP calendar, and three other prominent personalities lectured the bishops on the same topic—retired Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr., former Commission on Elections Chair Christian Monsod and constitutional and legal expert Fr. Joaquin Bernas.

The Church official complained that Saludo's inclusion in the roster of speakers negated the bishops' intention to get a "complete picture" of the national situation.

He claimed that Saludo's presence reinforced the Arroyo side of the argument that he said already included Davide and Monsod.

If there was anyone among the four speakers who might have provided a balance, it would have been Bernas, he said.

"We all know how Monsod thinks, especially because of his wife (INQUIRER columnist Solita)," he said.

He said Monsod's wife has been openly defending the President, particularly in her newspaper column.

"In the case of Davide, he's been appointed presidential adviser on electoral reforms," the source said.

The Church official requested anonymity, saying it was against the CBCP "culture" to reveal what transpires in its meetings.

Iñiguez said the CBCP had invited Saludo "because he's a Cabinet Secretary and he knows a lot."

Power grab futile – JDV

By Michael Lim Ubac

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA SAID yesterday that any attempt to grab power from beleaguered President Macapagal-Arroyo through violent means would prove futile.

"The people will not support any coup. None of the groups have the ability to pull it off," said De Venecia, refusing to confirm or deny that a group of coup plotters had approached him to get his support.

The Speaker pointed out that "there is no backing from the people, from the chain of command of the Armed Forces and from the international community" for coup plotters.

Even political leaders from Europe and Asia were downplaying the coup rumors by agreeing to meet here and launch a new regional political organization, De Venecia said.

Top political leaders of the Centrist Democrat International (CDI) from European and Asian parliaments will meet today at the Manila Hotel to formally establish the CDI Asia-Pacific organization which organizers say is expected to be a catalyst for regional economic and political integration.

CDI President Jose Maria Aznar, former Prime Minister of Spain, will preside over the CDI Executive Committee meeting. President Macapagal-Arroyo will be the guest of honor in the morning ceremonies and will be joined by former President Fidel V. Ramos and De Venecia.

The three are the top leaders of the Lakas Christian-Muslim Democrats (Lakas CMD), which is spearheading the creation of the CDI regional organization.

Among those attending the meeting are Pier Ferdinando Casini, president of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and newly-elected head of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); Wilfried Martens, president of the European People's Party (EPP), which has the largest number in the European Parliament; and Antonio Lopez-Isturiz, CDI executive secretary and EPP secretary general.

Labor group bats for English as medium of instruction

By Jerome Aning

THE TRADE UNION CONGRESS OF the Philippines yesterday backed calls by the Department of Labor and Employment and business groups to reinstate English as the medium of instruction at all school levels to improve future graduates' competitiveness in the labor market.

"English proficiency is a core human resource competency that we have to strengthen if we are to attract more business process outsourcing providers, particularly call center operators that deal with the customers of large American firms," TUCP general secretary Ernesto Herrera said.

Earlier, the Makati Business Club and the Joint Foreign Chambers of Commerce of the Philippines along with the DOLE said improving the Filipinos' proficiency in English would boost their chances of getting employed.

Herrera pointed out that even citizens of highly developed and technologically advanced countries such as South Korea are passionately studying English.

"In fact, thousands of young Koreans visit the Philippines to get either formal or informal crash courses in English. This is why South Korea is now our biggest source of foreign tourists," he said.

India and the Philippines are fierce competitors in the global business process outsourcing market, particularly in call-center operations.

However, a survey by the Michigan-based global staffing firm Kelly Services Inc. and the Singaporean market research outfit ACA Research Inc. showed that Filipino call center employees worked harder, were easier to train, had better language skills and were more devoted than their counterparts in India.

Herrera said that the results of the survey would be tested in the case of the Amsterdam-based ING Group N.V., a global financial services company that provides an array of banking, insurance and asset management services in over 50 countries.

The company plans to establish a major back-office operation in Asia and said it is choosing between the Philippines and India as the site.

The local business process outsourcing industry, which currently employs 233,000 workers, is expected to generate 103,000 new jobs this year, mainly in call centers, according to a forecast by the Business Processing Association of the Philippines.

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- Sec. Guillermo De Vega - Friday, May 5, 2006

SCHEDULE OF EXAMINATIONS IN MATH AND ENGLISH:
- Pres. Elpidio Quirino - Saturday, March 11, 2006
- Gov. Demetrio Quirino, Sr. - Saturday, April 22, 2006
- Sec. Guillermo De Vega - Saturday, May 6, 2006

TIME AND PLACE OF EXAMINATIONS:
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w/ FREE mattress
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Per DTI NCR Permit No. 0523, Series of 2006

PSG 'not immune' to destabilizers–Gonzalez

From page A1

"We should not look at it as if she is afraid of the military. She will utilize the military as she sees appropriate under the Constitution," he said.

Loyalty check

Gonzalez admitted that there was an ongoing "loyalty check" in the Armed Forces, and that "top officials of the military" were "probably checking on the activities of their people."

"They will be placed in an embarrassing situation if ... some of their men are discovered to have been tempted to join destabilization moves. So, in anticipation of such a situation, they are [conducting a loyalty check]," he said.

According to Gonzalez, the President's actions show that she is not bothered by reports of a coup plot.

She is even preparing to fly to Iloilo to attend the fiesta there today, he said.

Gonzalez cleared former Sen. Gregorio Honasan of involvement in the reported destabilization moves, saying it was not the latter that the AFP was going after in connection with the escape of five officers of the mutinous Magdalo group.

"There was no mention of his (Honasan's) name in any intelligence information. He's not part of the escape," said Gonzalez, who announced on Wednesday that the AFP was hot on the trail of an ex-military officer who had facilitated the escape of the rebel soldiers.

Gonzalez said the coup d'etat charge against Honasan in connection with the failed Oakwood mutiny of 2003 was still a "live case" but that action on it had been suspended to prove Ms Arroyo's "sincerity in reconciling with her detractors."

Praise for Bangit

Malacañang praised Bangit, who has endorsed as his successor a "mistah" in Philippine Military Academy Class of 1978 that is fiercely loyal to the President.

In a statement, Press Secretary Ignacio Bunye said Bangit had "done his work at the PSG with an incomparable sense of duty that has endeared him to the First Family and earned the respect of the entire Cabinet for his excellent job in securing the seat of power and authority."

Bunye said that while Bangit had not yet been reassigned, his transfer was expected as "a matter of course, as happened to previous heads of the PSG."

Reached by phone, Bangit expressed annoyance over suggestions that his transfer was the result of a security lapse that allowed rebel soldiers to influence members of the PSG.

"There is no paranoia in Malacañang, although we are aware that my relief will be a propaganda item," he said, adding that all the talk was "simply making our people more tense and more apprehensive of what is happening in Malacañang."

Bangit said he spoke with the President yesterday morning and complained about "how they are putting so much color to my relief."

But when asked if the escaped Magdalo soldiers had increased the threat against Ms Arroyo, he replied: "No comment."

Bangit stressed that his transfer to another unit was raised as early as last month by Ms Arroyo, and that his relief was a career move given that 54 generals, 30 from the Army, were due to retire and be replaced this year.

BANGIT: All the talk making our people more tense, apprehensive.

He also said he ordered last month an evaluation and investigation of reports of an assassination plot against Ms Arroyo.

"The results showed it was hard to confirm these plots, but [despite their being] unconfirmed, we just have to make the necessary adjustments," he said.

Holganza

Bangit said he would stay on as PSG chief until the President had decided on his replacement.

While Ms Arroyo was said to be considering a number of officers for the sensitive post, Bangit only named Army Col. Carlos Holganza.

Holganza is a member of PMA Class '78 which had adopted Ms Arroyo as one of its own.

Bangit, the class president, and Holganza are among several class members holding key positions in the Arroyo administration.

Holganza has been Ms Arroyo's chief military aide since she was Vice President. He is a deputy of outgoing Presidential Management Staff chief Rigoberto Tiglao.

Surveillance

As Gonzalez had said, Camp Aguinaldo authorities are keeping a number of officers, including senior officers, under surveillance for suspected involvement in a coup plot.

After it disclosed on Tuesday that junior officers were being recruited to join a coup d'etat, the military was criticized by lawmakers for not arresting the coup plotters.

Up until now, the military has not identified the supposed ringleaders.

But AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison said yesterday: "We are doing what we're supposed to do in the field. I cannot go down to specifics but we are doing the necessary moves to address it."

Part of the countermoves is to check the loyalty of the officers, even the generals.

"The intelligence and counterintelligence units of the [AFP] are doing something to monitor all these activities, whether these recruiters are junior officers, middle-level officers or generals, or civilians. It is included in what we are doing," Kison said.

He would not identify or say how many officers were being monitored, but said the investigation was all encompassing. *With a report from Dona Pazzibugan*

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INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on February 8, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 5, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS:

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CWB-28-D	Residential lot (TCT-N-282188)	300	Lot 27, Block 122 Villa Viena, Neopolitan Phase 1, Pasong Putik, Novaliches, QC.	P 1,470,000.00
CWB-14	Comm'l/residential lot (TCT No. 428042) w/ bldg.	199	Corner of # 280 A. Bonifacio Avenue (National Road) and A. Flores St., Jesus dela Pena, Marikina City	P 4,101,800.00
PF-001	Residential lot (TCT No. 15884) w/ bldg. & imp.	110	78-F Arandia, Brgy. Bagbagan, Muntinlupa City	P 742,900.00
AM-CP-001	Industrial lot (TCT No. M-21827) w/ bldgs	2,380	100 Industry Road II corner Reparo Road, Araneta University Village (now Potrero), Malabon City.	P 20,000,000.00
AM-JA-002	Two adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. 164323 & 164324) w/ bldg.	787	Corner R. Tirona and T. Teodoro Street, B.F. Homes, Parañaque City.	P 6,500,000.00
BATAAN				
CWB-10	Adjoining residential/ commercial lots (TCT No. T-208130 & T-208131) w/ bldg & imp.	6,807	Roman Superhighway at Municipal boundary of Hermosa & Orani	P 5,057,980.00
BULACAN				
CWB-28-B	Two adjoining residential lots: TCT-T-422072(M) & 422073(M)	300	Lot 35 & 33 blk 3 Carnation St., Graceville Subd., Bo Caretas, San Jose Del Monte	P 420,000.00
CWB-28-C	Two adjoining agro-residential lots with bldgs & improvements Lot No. 21-C-2-A (TCT - T 422070 (M) Lot No. 1 (TCT 422071 (M)	19,000	Bo. Bulac, Sta. Maria	P 4,943,200.00
CSP-03	Residential/Comml lot (TCT-T-41100 (M)	632	Bo. Pulong Yantok, Angat	P 1,074,400.00
CAVITE				
CWB-28-A	Residential lot (TCT-T49242)	300	Session Road, Tagaytay Monte Vista Subd., brgy Sangay, Tagaytay City.	P 1,530,000.00
AM-FD-003	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-1123239) w/ bldg	43	Lot 33, Blk 23-B Alley 11, Regal Homes	P 223,800.00
AM-FD-004	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-1129119) w/ bldg	68	Brgy. Alapan 1, Imus Lot 25, Blk 10, Regal Homes, Brgy, Alapan I, Imus	P 391,900.00
LAGUNA				
AM-PI-005	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-616398) w/ bldg	40	St. Joseph Village 6, Phase I, Bgy. Butong, Cabuyao	P 266,000.00
AM-PI-006	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-616400) w / bldg	40	St. Joseph Village 6, Phase I, Bgy. Butong, Cabuyao	P 203,300.00
AM-CB-007	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-627972) w/ bldg	40	Lot 64, Blk 6, St. Joseph Village Butong, Cabuyao	P 207,400.00
AM-CB-008	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-627974) w/ bldg	40	Lot 18, Blk. 5, St. Joseph Village, Butong, Cabuyao	P 210,900.00
NUEVA ECIJA				
AM-CP-009	Agro-residential lot (TCT No. NT-58931)	171,126	Brgy. Cadaclan, Pantabangan	P 2,650,000.00
CWB-2	Residential lot (TCT-NT-28689) w/ bldg	1,000	Jaen-Zaragoza Road	P 290,400.00
RIZAL				
CWB-1	Commercial lot (TCT No. 428788) w/ bldg. & imp.	95	#547 Gen. Luna St., Brgy. Guinayang, San Mateo	P 1,027,100.00
PF-011	Residential lot (TCT No. 32501) w/ bldg.	128	L 14 B8 Durian St., Valley View Executive Village, Mayamot, Antipolo	P 523,300.00
cwb-11	Partly developed Industrial lot (TCT -392778) w/ bldg	3.9 ha	Sitio Putting Bato, Barangay San Luis, Antipolo City	P 13,466,500.00
CHATTELS				
CWB-3	PRINTING MACHINE & EQUIPMENT Stored at 22 col Divinio corner Karen Sts., Paliparan Subd., Sto. Nino, Marikina City: One (1) unit Offset Printing Machine, AKIYAMA, Model SA-2- 38, SN-47159			P 787,500.00
	One (1) unit Offset Printing Machine, MILLER, Model TP32, Machine No GI9502			P 600,000.00
	One (1) unit Offset Printing Machine, HARRIS, Model Aurelia 2252, SN5139			P 625,000.00
	One (1) unit Offset Printing Machine, HEIDELBERG CORD, SN-500897			P 100,000.00
	One (1) unit Webfeed Offset Printing Machine, HAMADA CHANDLER-24, SN-325-S			P 2,000,000.00
CWB-11-D	One (1) unit Power Press, SUZUKI, 200 tons capacity located at Sitio Putting Bato, Barangay San Luis, Antipolo City.			P 350,000.00
AM-DE-010	Three (3) Units passenger buses, Hino Model, 67 seater, 6 wheeler, w/o engine, transmission & axle (not operational) located at Gem Village, Maa, Davao City			
	Bus NO. 5516, Chassis No. RK-3HRS-10032			P 53,400.00
	Bus NO. 5518, Chassis No. RK-3HRS-10034			P 53,400.00
	Bus NO. 5517, Chassis No. RK-3HRS-10033			P 53,400.00
	One passenger bus, 53-seater,GI sheet body, unfinished inner wall, no back wall, w/ Izusu engine w/ no 6BFI-133872, chasses No. SPMM-58973-92-C.			P 41,600.00
AM-RT-011	Various Machinery & Equipment for molding & fabrication located at No -599 Boarder Road Ext., Cordero Subdivision Bo. Lambakin, Marilao, Bulacan			P 330,700.00
AM-JA-012	One (1) unit CNC Turret Punch Press, "AMADA" w/ 20 kw elec. Motor & accessories located at 2337 Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila			P 5,250,000.00
AM-ED-013	Various Sewing Machine Equipment located at No. 762 San Ignacio St. Plainview, Mandaluyong City			P 86,600.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours; and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING.

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers 892-1506/893-7172 or 818-0511 local 2158/2159 for Code starting with AM, local 2715 for PF and 920-40-09 for cwb.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI–January 27 & 28, 2006)

Corrections

IN THE JAN. 26 ISSUE, a story on Page A3—"Erap seeks bishops' intervention on case"—attributed to the wrong prelate the statement that the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines was considering an appeal by ousted President Joseph Estrada for CBCP intervention in the plunder case against him. Archbishop Oscar Cruz—not Archbishop Orlando Quevedo—made the statement to reporters. The quotation was attributed in error by the French news agency, Agence France-Presse, whose dispatch we incorporated in our story. Our apologies.

* * *

IN THE JAN. 25 ISSUE, a story on Page A7—"Ex-SC chief to address bishops on nat'l situation"—misstated the first name of a legal expert who was scheduled to speak at a workshop of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. The correct name of the legal expert is Fr. Joaquin—not Miguel—Bernas.

* * *

IN THE JAN. 25 ISSUE, Nestor U. Torre's column on Page A2-3 of the Entertainment Section—"Fitting tribute to Edsa Revolution"—misspelled the surname of one of the historians who had provided onscreen analysis for a TV documentary on the Edsa Revolution. The historian's name is Stephen Henry Totanes—not Totane.

* * *

IN THE JAN. 19 ISSUE, the front-page banner story—"Army knew of escape plan"—and another front-page story—"Magdalo lawyer, senators don't buy story"—misspelled the surname of one of the four Oakwood mutineers who escaped from Fort Bonifacio on Jan. 17. The junior officer's name is 1st Lt. Patricio Bumidang—not Bumindang—Jr. The same mistake appeared in a timeline on Page A8 and in the Jan. 20 editorial—"An inside job"—on Page A12.

* * *

Readers may send their requests for correction of factual errors in writing to the Day Desk, Philippine Daily Inquirer, PDI Building, Chino Roces Avenue corner Mascardo Street, Makati City, fax Nos. 897-47-93/94; e-mail address: daydesk@inquirer.com.ph.

Complaints about lack of fairness or objectivity may be sent to Lorna Kalaw Tirol, readers' advocate, e-mail address: readersadvocate@inquirer.com. ph or fax Nos. 897-47-93/94, Attn: Readers Advocate. Her phone number is 897-8808 Local 342.

SWS: One thing constant is pride in being Filipino

From page A1

who said that authoritarianism was "sometimes better."

Mangahas also noted that the percentage of private enterprises from which government employees solicited bribes had been going down slowly but steadily in the past five years.

Fantastic

In 2000, 52 percent of respondents said government officials and employees had asked them for bribes that year. This figure went down to 36 percent in 2005.

Mangahas described this as a "fantastic" development and said the people should "take their hats off to [resigned Bureau of Internal Revenue Commissioner Guillermo] Parayno because it happened during his watch."

However, media commentator and lawyer Ricardo "Dong" Puno, who was the guest speaker, warned against rejoicing over the seemingly lower incidence of corruption.

Puno said the survey results could only be reflective of "the fringes of the problem." He cited the various instances of alleged corruption that had been reported in the media.

Political scientist Alexander Magno of the University of the Philippines, a member of the Consultative Commission that drew up proposed amendments to the Constitution, said insights into public opinion were like "drawing lines in the universe where distance is relative and the reference points are moving."

But Magno conceded that public opinion was powerful. SWS findings on self-rated hunger, for example, "led to a deluge of subsidized food" from the government, he noted.

Magno expressed alarm over the constantly high rate of youth unemployment, saying that the problem would be compounded by the country's high population growth rate and relatively young population.

He said there should be more effort at finding solutions to problems rather than merely focusing on the problems themselves.

According to the SWS, the year 2005 was one of great trials for the Philippines, going by a summary of its quarterly national surveys, its special telephone surveys in Metro Manila, and its annual survey of enterprises.

The last survey was presented yesterday, covering the topics of economic well-being, public safety, governance, national security, foreign relations, corruption, the political crisis, and public morale and equanimity.

Economic well-being

In 2005, the general state of economic well-being was quite bad, with hunger, unemployment and economic pessimism reaching record levels. Poverty was on an upward trend in the past two years.

Such unfavorable statistics indicate that the GNP is "maldistributed" and that mere growth, unless high and sustained for a long period, does not relieve economic stress, the SWS said in a statement.

In the area of public safety, 12 percent of households were victimized within the past six months by burglaries, robberies outside the home, thefts of a motor vehicle, or some form of physical violence.

President's negative rating

In governance, public satisfaction with President Macapagal-Arroyo and the national administration has been negative for a prolonged period. The areas that were consistently cited as sources of dissatisfaction were inflation and corruption.

The administration's rating in "helping the poor" swung into the negative recently. But performance in foreign relations continued to be positive.

In the area of national security, the government has a slight edge over communist and Moro rebel groups on the issue of sincerity in talking peace. More than half of the public worry greatly about possible terrorist attacks.

Enthusiasm about US

Enthusiasm about US military assistance has declined, with only one-third of respondents now saying the Philippines benefits much from joint military exercises with the United States, compared with two-thirds in 2003.

The public's net trust rating of the United States ranged between 18 and 37 percent last year, historic lows for the Filipinos' favorite foreign country. Like Americans, Filipinos have become increasingly disillusioned about the war in Iraq.

On the bright side, private enterprises are growing more enthusiastic about participating in the fight against corruption, including funding private anticorruption programs.

Metro Manila managers' reports of being asked for bribes regarding income taxes declined steadily from 52 percent in 2000 to 36 percent in 2005.

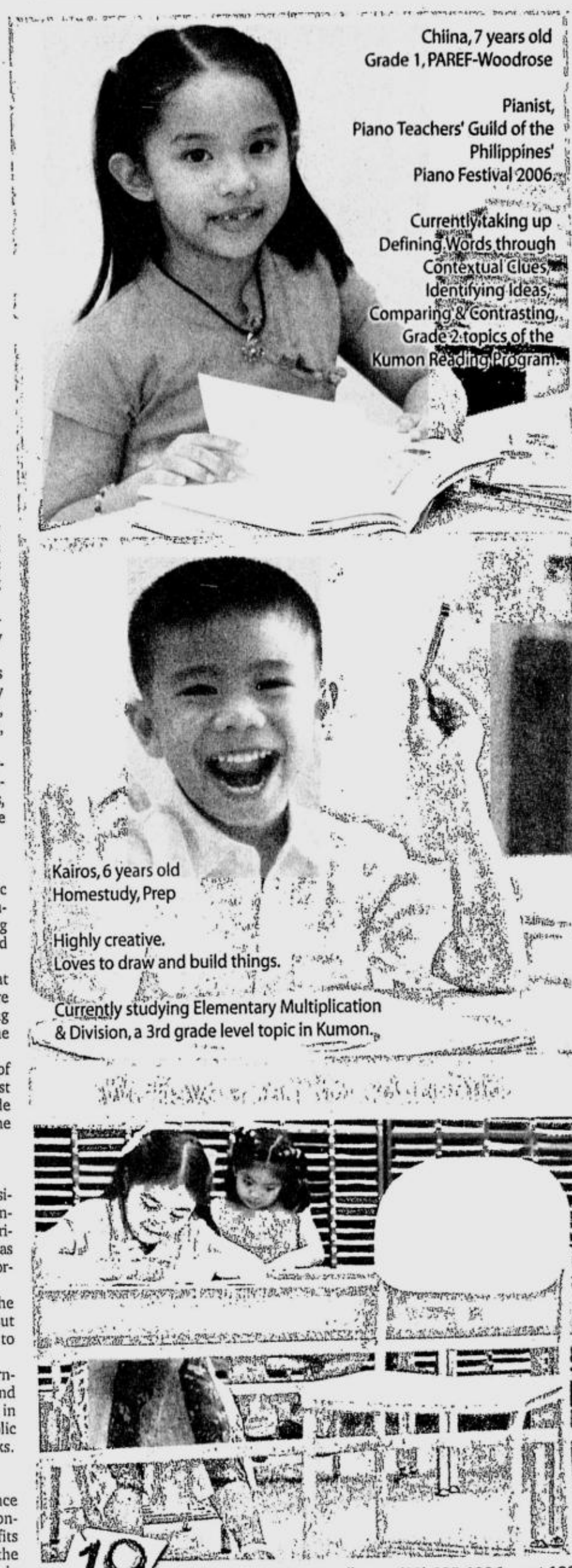
Conditions look favorable for the ultimate success of the private sector's Coalition Against Corruption, the SWS said.

On the political crisis of 2005, the extent of public indignation in Metro Manila during the June-August period, gleaned from SWS land line surveys reacting to the "Hello Garci" tape scandal, was validated at the national level by the September 2005 national Social Weather Survey finding 79 percent favoring impeachment, and 64 percent favoring the resignation of Ms Arroyo.

That the most popular proposal (as of December 2005) for inclusion in constitutional amendments was a stipulation for Ms Arroyo to step down before her term ends in 2010 indicated that the "Hello Garci" crisis was far from over, the SWS said.

Since there were positive and negative reactions, depending on the items being proposed or not proposed for Charter change, the SWS said public acceptance of a new Constitution could only be described as "iffy" at this time.

The SWS Survey Review is a joint undertaking of the SWS and the Washington Sycip Policy Center of the Asian Institute of Management.



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(see B2, page 3)

The launching of the beginnings of the first regional political organization in Asia

Centrist Democrat International (CDI) Asia-Pacific and the Global Interfaith Dialogue

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President, Philippines
Chairperson, Lakas-CMD

Jose Maria Aznar
President, CDI
Former Prime Minister, Spain

Speaker Jose de Venecia
Vice President, CDI
President, Lakas-CMD
Acting Head, CDI Asia-Pacific

Fidel V. Ramos
Chairman Emeritus
Lakas-CMD, CDI

Surakiart Sathirathai
Dep. Prime Minister, Thailand
ASEAN Nominee for U.N. Secretary-General

Pier Ferdinando Casini
President, Italian Parliament
President, Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)

Prince Norodom Ranariddh
President, Funcinpec Party
Speaker, Cambodian Parliament
Former Prime Minister

Theo Sambuaga
Deputy Chairman, Golkar
Senior Member, Indonesian Parliament

Kjell Magne Bondevik
Former Prime Minister
Norway

Wilfried Martens
President, European People's Party
Former Prime Minister, Belgium

Dr. Mohamed Sherif
Secretary General, World Islamic Call Society

Ricardo Cardinal Vidal
Archbishop, Cebu

Antonio Lopez Isturiz
CDI Executive Secretary
Secretary-General, European People's Party

Sheikh Dr. Saalik Bin Humaid
President, Saudi Consultative Council (Parliament)

Abdurraham Wahid
Former President, Indonesia

Sok An
Deputy Prime Minister
Cambodia
Vice Chairman, Cambodian People's Party

Sen. Mushahid Hussain Sayed
Secretary-General, Pakistan Muslim League

ON JANUARY 27-28, 2006 the Centrist Democrat International (formerly Christian Democrat International) is launching two historic initiatives in Asia that will help define the future of regional integration—and the role of the world's great religions in building world peace and international goodwill.

Inspired by the political integration of Europe that was achieved more than half a century ago, the CDI is launching its fledgling CDI Asia-Pacific, nurtured by ten major political parties from eight nations. This is a moment of great significance, the beginnings of a region-wide political organization that stretches from the Hindu Kush to the Korean Peninsula.

The founding parties

Following their earlier signing of the founding document, the ten founding parties and their respective leaders gather at the Manila Hotel to convene their first meeting. They are the leaders of:

- Lakas Christian-Muslim Democrats (Philippines), led by President *Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo*, chairperson; former President *Fidel V. Ramos*, chairman emeritus; and Speaker *Jose de Venecia*, president;
- Funcinpec Party (Cambodia) of *Prince Norodom Ranariddh*, president of the National Assembly;
- Cambodia People's Party represented by Deputy Prime Minister *Sok An*;
- Indian National Congress (India), represented by senior MP *Shri Murli Deora*;
- Uri Party (South Korea), represented by Chung Eui-yong, Party Chairman on Foreign Relations;
- Pakistan Muslim League (Pakistan), represented by its Secretary-General, Sen. *Mushahid Hussain Sayed*;
- United Malay National Organization (Malaysia), represented by Secretary-General Dato Mohd Radzi bin Sheikh Ahmad;
- Thai Rak Thai Party (Thailand), represented by Deputy Prime Minister *Surakiart Sathirathai*;
- Golkar Party (Indonesia), represented by Deputy Chairman *Theo Sambuaga*;
- Democratic Party of Indonesia, represented by Ambassador *Irzan Tandjung;*

As observer, the Communist Party of China is sending to the launching Chinese Ambassador *Li Jinjun* and Political Officer *James T. Lin.*

The forces of the middle

As the "forces of the middle," the ten founding parties are helping transform the economic face of Asia in the relentless fight against poverty, terrorism and injustice; in the coming decades they hope to strengthen as well the region's politics into one of vision and performance, enlarge the scope of the Asian economic miracle, and build upon these gains an enduring peace for all its peoples. Eventually, de Venecia sees an Asian People's Party emerging to spearhead economic and political integration of the region, culminating possibly in an Asian Union or Asian Community.

Some of Europe's great political leaders and Centrist Democrats are in Manila to co-launch this initiative: former Prime Minister of Spain *Jose Maria Aznar*, the CDI president; *Pier Ferdinando Casini*, president of Italy's Chamber of Deputies and newly elected president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU); former Prime Minister of Belgium *Wilfried Martens*, president of the CDI's European People's Party, which has 60 member-parties and the majority in the European Parliament; former Prime Minister of Norway *Kjell Magne Bondevik*, who is helping in the peace process in Sri Lanka and the Philippines; and *Antonio Lopez Isturiz*, CDI executive secretary and secretary general of the European People's Party. The CDI represents 110 political parties in Europe, Latin America, Africa and Asia, some of which are ruling parties or in coalition with their governments.

A common agenda for peace

In the second of its two significant initiatives, the CDI gathers the great leaders of the world's major religions for the Global Interfaith Dialogue. Muslims (Shiites and Sunnis), Christians (Catholics and Protestants), Buddhists, Hindus, Confucians and Jews will sit down and reason together to draw up a common agenda for achieving peace and fraternity in the Asian continent and in the world. They hope to contribute to lessening tensions and politico-religious conflicts in the various regions of the world.

Among the speakers at the Global Interfaith Conference are: *Archbishop Ricardo Cardinal Vidal* of Cebu, the senior Roman Catholic leader in the Philippines; *Abdurrahman Wahid*, the former president of Indonesia whose religious party has some 30 million members; *Dr. Abdullah Bin Abdul Mohsin Al-Turki*, secretary general of the Muslim World League (Rabitah); *Sheikh Dr. Saalik Bin Humaid*, president of the Saudi Consultative Council (Parliament); *Dr. Mohamed Sherif* of Libya, the secretary general of the World Islamic Call Society; *Rev. Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak*, chairman of the Universal Peace Foundation (UPF), and *Dr. Thomas Walsh*, secretary general of the UPF; El Shaddai leader *Bro. Mike Velarde*, Bishop *Efraim Tendero*, and *Mahid Mutilan*, president of Muslim Mindanao's Ompia party. The day-long program is the product of months of preparation undertaken by the Organizing Committee headed by *Francis Manglapus*, Lakas CMD deputy secretary general, and *Francisco Aziz* of the CDI Asia-Pacific region.

UN endorses Interfaith Dialogue

The Global Interfaith Dialogue, which President *Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo* and *Speaker de Venecia* originally proposed to the United Nations in 2004, was formally adopted by the General Assembly in November 2004 as a mechanism to mediate centuries-old ethnic and politico-religious conflicts that continue to bedevil nations in the world. Interfaith dialogues at the global and regional levels are evolving into meaningful mechanisms to deter violence, strengthen moderates, and eventually isolate extremists.

The CDI Executive Committee chaired by Aznar will also convene its first Asian conference in Manila. On Saturday the CDI-organized gathering ends with two conferences—Economic Development and Women and Human Rights.

The CDI's expansion into Asia recognizes the region's increasing importance in the midst of global social, economic and political transformation.

cdi
Centrist Democrat International
Asia Pacific

These amulets bring bad luck

By Luige A. del Puerto

IF YOU HAVE AN AMULET MADE OF A BULlet or bullets, don't wear it to the airport because chances are it will bring you bad luck instead of warding off evil spirits.

The warning was issued yesterday by the Philippine National Police's Aviation Security Group as it lamented that many continue to ignore the prohibition on bringing bullets, firearms and explosives to the airport.

Chief Supt. Andres Caro II, director of the Aviation Security Group, said that more than 350 bullets, most of them carried as amulets or lucky charms, were seized by airport officials last year and about 100 cases filed in court against their owners. A number of those caught with such lucky charms were let go for humanitarian reasons, he added.

Caro warned that bringing a bullet inside an airport could mean up to six years in prison under PD 1866, the law regulating the possession, use and sale of firearms and explosives.

"Despite several public advisories made by the ASG and airport authorities on print and broadcast media, still many seem to be unaware of this law," Caro said.

In 2005 alone, airport authorities confiscated 352 bullets, or an average of nearly one bullet a day.

"A single live bullet is enough to hijack even the largest commercial plane," Caro said. That is why air travel authorities abroad provide for even stiffer penalties for erring passengers and airlines, he added. *With Nikko Dizon*

Hubby can't post bail for Dinky

A QUEZON CITY COURT DENIED YESTERDAY a motion to post bail by the camp of former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Dinky Soliman for the P20-million libel suit lodged against her by Alagad party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta.

Judge Rosanna Maglaya of the Quezon City Regional Trial Court Branch 88 ruled against Soliman's motion allowing her husband Hector to post bail on her behalf, while she was in Cambodia.

In a two-page order, the court said Soliman should first be under legal custody before the P10,000 bail could be posted. The court ordered Soliman's arrest last week.

Soliman, who is scheduled to return today, was already out of the country when the arrest was ordered. Her husband filed the motion to post bail on her behalf last Monday.

Maglaya said it was improper to allow a person to post bail when she remained free.

"While the court perfectly understands the predicament of the accused, it is however, duty bound only to apply the law and abide by what it says," she said.

Marcoleta filed libel charges last year against Soliman for allegedly insinuating that his endorsement of the original impeachment complaint by lawyer Oliver Lozano had the blessing of President Macapagal-Arroyo herself.

Soliman said in a press briefing that she heard Ms Arroyo asking her Political Affairs Adviser Gabriel Claudio on June 27 to tell Marcoleta to endorse the complaint. *DJ Yap*

US to extradite American to RP

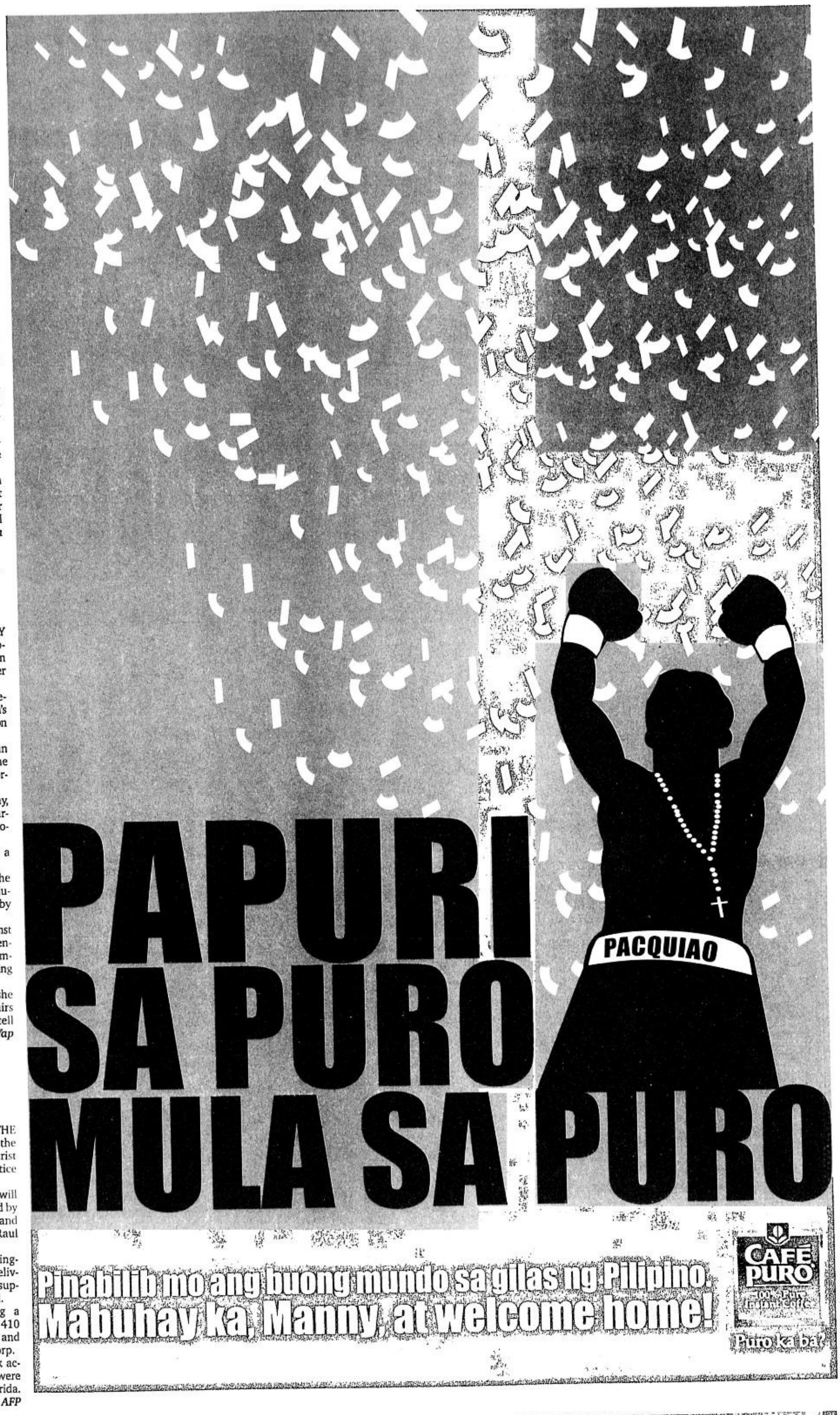
THE UNITED STATES HAS AGREED TO THE extradition of an American man wanted in the Philippines for allegedly swindling a tourist resort over the sale of an airplane, the justice department said yesterday.

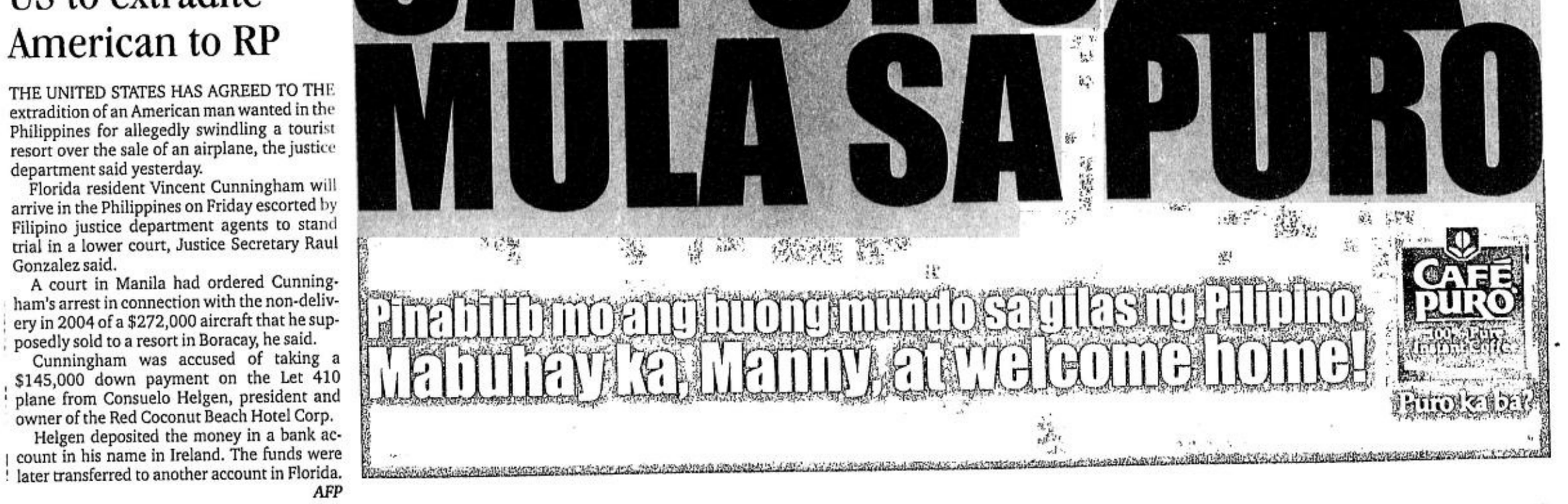
Florida resident Vincent Cunningham will arrive in the Philippines on Friday escorted by Filipino justice department agents to stand trial in a lower court, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said.

A court in Manila had ordered Cunningham's arrest in connection with the non-delivery in 2004 of a $272,000 aircraft that he supposedly sold to a resort in Boracay, he said.

Cunningham was accused of taking a $145,000 down payment on the Let 410 plane from Consuelo Helgen, president and owner of the Red Coconut Beach Hotel Corp.

Helgen deposited the money in a bank account in his name in Ireland. The funds were later transferred to another account in Florida. *AFP*





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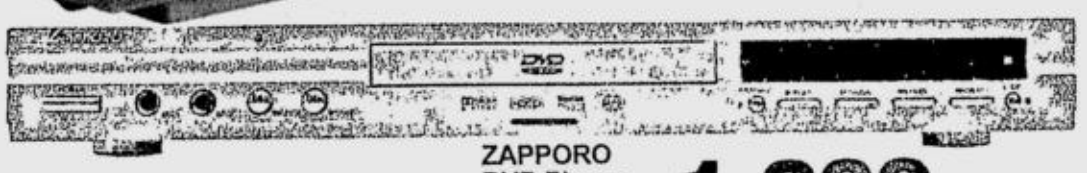

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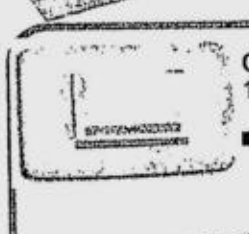

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Limit Bike 10"
Magwheels
ST-1008
199

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Ladies Slippers/
Step-In
LS-028/029
25

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• Assorted Colors
• Short Sleeve
49

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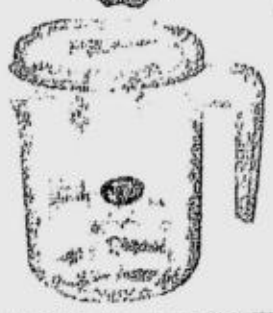
Panini
29



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Ship runs aground in Apo reef

By Blanche S. Rivera

STRONG WINDS and rains caused by a low pressure area drove a Manila-bound Indonesian vessel from Malaysia to run aground at the Apo Reef Natural Park, a protected area in Occidental Mindoro.

The 2,003-ton M/V Marthen hit parts of the Apo Reef around 1 p.m. Monday and remains about 6 km. from the main reef until now as severe weather conditions prevent the vessel from proceeding.

The country's weather bureau yesterday said the surge of strong winds associated with the northern easterly will continue in the coming days, affecting parts of Luzon and Visayas.

"Moderate to strong winds blowing from the east and northeast will prevail over Luzon and Visayas with moderate to rough seas," the Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration said in its 5 p.m. weather bulletin.

Rains with thunderstorms will remain the rest of the week, especially in Quezon and Aurora, as the tailend of a cold front affects much of Luzon.

Big waves

Environment Assistant Secretary Vic S. Paragas said divers have been deployed to the anchorage area within the park, where the vessel is stuck, to check the situation.

The Indonesian cargo vessel was bound for Harbor Center, a private wharf in Manila's north harbor to deliver lumber from Malaysia. It has 17 people on board, who remain incommunicado save through radio.

Task Force MARLEN, a Sablayan-based multi-stakeholder enforcement group, with the PASU of Apo Reef Natural Park, have tried but failed to board the ship to investigate the incident because of big waves, according to WWF-Philippines.

Pinay flees cruelty, lives after fall

SHE JUMPED FROM the 9th floor and lived to tell another tale of cruelty suffered by some Filipino domestic helpers abroad.

Still in crutches, Veronica Bangit returned home from Egypt yesterday two months after her near-fatal escape from maltreatment in the hands of her employers in Cairo, the Department of Foreign Affairs reported yesterday.

The Philippine Embassy in Cairo took her under its care as she recuperated from multiple hip fractures and a broken left leg, the DFA said.

Bangit jumped from her employers' 9th floor apartment last Nov. 26 and survived as her fall was cushioned by a garage canopy and a parked car, the DFA said. She was brought to the As Salam Hospital for treatment and surgery.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Hamas in stunning win in Palestinian poll

RAMALLAH, WEST BANK—THE ISLAMIC MILITANT group Hamas captured a majority of seats in Palestinian legislative elections, officials in Hamas and the ruling Fatah Party said Thursday—a devastating upset that is sure to throw Mideast peacemaking into turmoil.

Israel and the United States have said they would not deal with a Hamas-led Palestinian government. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas has said he would step down if he could no longer pursue his peace agenda with Israel.

Palestinian election officials confirmed that Hamas had won virtually all the seats up for grabs in electoral districts in the West Bank and Gaza. Half the seats in Wednesday's parliament vote were chosen on a national list and the other half by districts.

The Central Election Commission said the vote count had not been completed and that it would make an official announcement at 7 p.m. Thursday.

Initial exit polls on Wednesday night had forecast a slight edge for Fatah, with Hamas coming in a strong second. The polls predicted that neither Hamas nor Fatah would have enough seats to form a government alone, and would have to rely on smaller parties to form a coalition.

However, on Thursday morning, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh said his group had won about 70 seats in the 132-member parliament. Later in the day, another Hamas official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the number had risen to at least 75.

Officials in Fatah conceded that Hamas had won about 70 seats. They spoke on condition of anonymity because counting in some districts was continuing.

The discrepancy between the exit polls and Thursday's information was apparently due to voting in districts, where Hamas was apparently able to capitalize on divisions within Fatah.

A senior Fatah member, Saeb Erekat, said he could not confirm the partial results, but blamed Israel's refusal to resume peace talks with a Fatah-led government for the party's poor showing.

"Israel has declared us nonpartners about four years ago and they were not speaking to our elected president," he told Israel Army Radio. "Everybody was blaming Fatah for every mistake in the world. Everybody was tying our hands and our legs and throwing us into the sea. And now I think all these things, including our mistakes in Fatah, led to this result."

Acting Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert said Wednesday, before Hamas claimed victory, that Israel cannot trust a Palestinian leadership in which the Islamic group has a role, according to a statement by his office. *AP*

Bush links home spying to Osama tape

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT George W. Bush said Wednesday that a controversial domestic spying program that some critics say is illegal was necessary in light of new threats on an audiotape from Osama bin Laden.

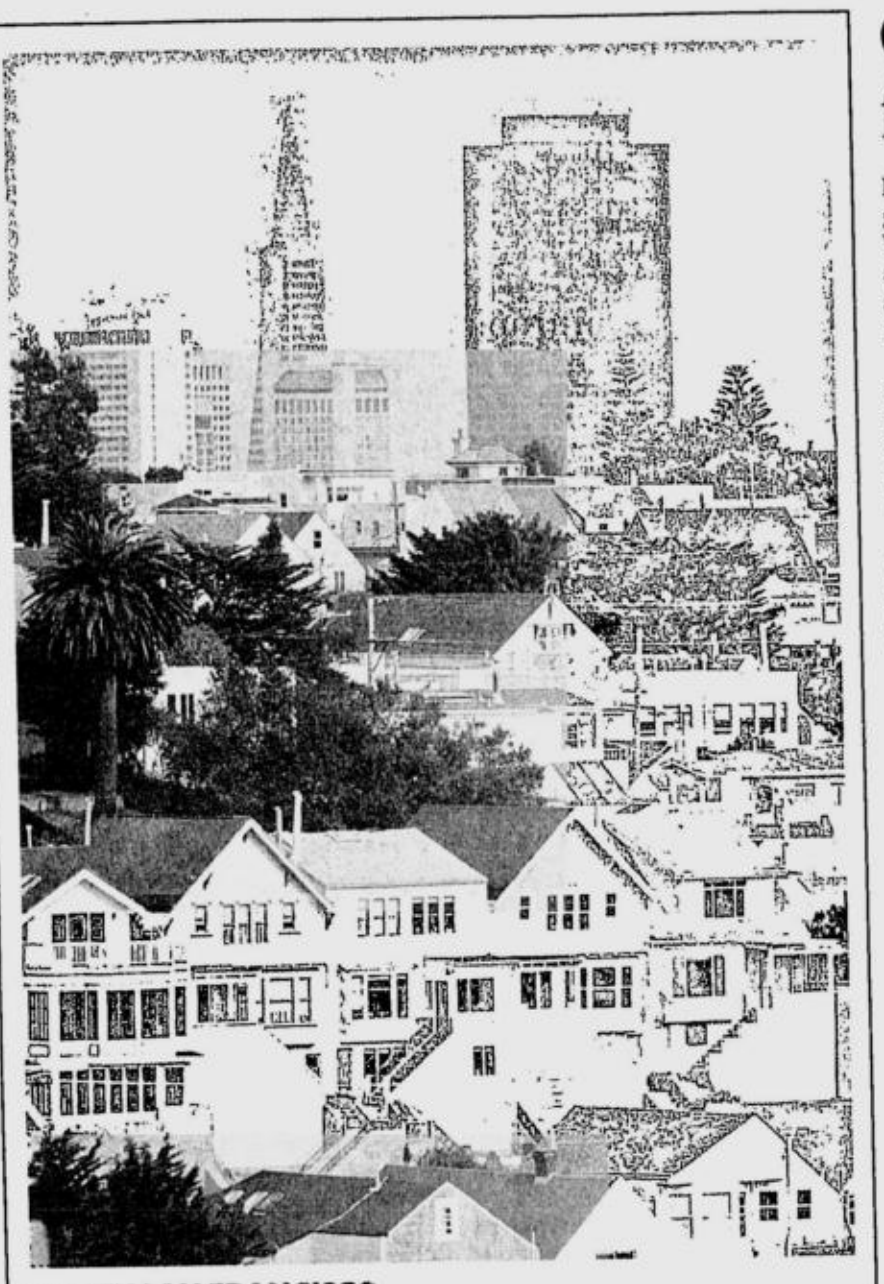
"I'll continue to reauthorize this program for so long as our country faces a continuing threat from al-Qaida and related groups," Bush said during a visit to the National Security Agency (NSA), which runs the surveillance initiative.

"Listen to the words of Osama bin Laden and take him seriously. When he says he's going to hurt the American people again, or try to, he means it," he said. "I take it seriously. And the people of NSA take it seriously. And most of the American people take it seriously as well."

The al-Qaida mastermind threatened fresh attacks on the United States in a new audiotape broadcast last week by the Qatar-based Al-Jazeera television station.

Under Bush's order, issued in the weeks after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, the NSA no longer needs a court's permission to intercept US citizens' telephone calls or electronic mail overseas.

"We must be able to quickly detect when someone linked to al-Qaida is communicating with someone inside of America. That's one of the challenges of protecting the American people," the president said. *AFP*



PRICEY SAN FRANCISCO
Rows of homes glisten Jan. 25 in San Francisco. An estimated one in eight homes sold for over $1 million or more in the San Francisco Bay Area in 2005, a nearly 50 percent increase from 2004, according to a real estate tracking firm. AFP

Civil liberties group sues US gov't for denying visa to Muslim scholar

NEW YORK—A LEADING CIVIL LIBERTIES group filed suit against the government Wednesday for excluding a top Muslim scholar from entering the country, arguing it should not use antiterrorism laws as "instruments of censorship."

The lawsuit filed by the American Civil Liberties Union in US District Court in Manhattan sought to open the way for Tariq Ramadan, a Swiss intellectual and Muslim scholar, to accept invitations to speak to audiences in the United States.

Ramadan was blocked from accepting a tenured teaching position at the University of Notre Dame when his visa was revoked in August 2004 because of a provision of the Patriot Act, said Jameel Jaffer, an ACLU staff attorney.

Jaffer said the provision blocks entry into the United States by any prominent alien who has used his status to endorse or espouse terrorism or to persuade others to endorse or espouse terrorist activity.

"We don't think there's any evidence at all that he has endorsed terrorism," Jaffer said. "In fact, there is overwhelming evidence that he has condemned terrorism."

Jaffer said Ramadan's exclusion was part of an effort by the US government to bar foreign scholars whose political views might be contrary to those of the United States from entering the country.

"The government should not be using the immigration laws as instruments of censorship," Jaffer said. "Our concern is that the government is using this provision to manipulate and censor political and academic debate within the United States."

Named as defendants in the lawsuit are US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice and Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff.

The lawsuit seeks a declaration that the Patriot Act provision at issue is unconstitutional. It also seeks a court order preventing the government from relying on the provision to exclude Ramadan or any other foreign national.

The Patriot Act, the nation's premier antiterror legislation, has been the source of sharp criticism by the ACLU and other civil liberties and human rights groups.

Many of its key provision were to expire at the end of 2005, but amid debate over whether the act sufficiently protects civil liberties, most Senate Democrats and a few Republicans united against legislation that would have renewed several provisions permanently while extending others for four years.

Over White House objections, Congress approved a one-month extension of the law in its current form to allow the debate to continue. The new measure expires Feb. 3.

Besides Ramadan, plaintiffs in the lawsuit include the American Academy of Religion, the American Association of University Professors and PEN American Center, organizations which had invited Ramadan to speak in the United States. *AP*

India's last freedom heroes recall torture under UK rule

By Parul Gupta

KOLKATA, INDIA—BIMAL Bhowmick is 92, his voice frail and his memory failing. But unlike most of India's one billion population he still remembers the cruelty inflicted by the country's former British colonial masters.

Bhowmick is one of the few surviving Indians who went to a jail in the remote Indian Ocean Andaman and Nicobar islands built by the British a century ago as punishment center for largely nonviolent campaigns by freedom fighters against colonial rule.

He also represents a past linked to icons such as the country's father Mahatma Gandhi and first Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru that has all but been forgotten as the number of people left from that generation of fighters for independence approaches zero.

Bhowmick is one of only three people out of 104 families who had relatives at the jail to have answered a call from the Indian government which wants to honor them at the prison's centenary on March 10.

British rulers occupied the islands in 1857 to develop them as a penal colony. A sentence to Cellular Jail, named after its 698 cramped cells, came to be known as "Kala Pani" or black waters, because of the cruelty inflicted on the inmates.

"I was sent to Kala Pani in 1936. There were various means of torture. We used to think it was the end for us," Bhowmick recounts, speaking by telephone from Murshidabad district in eastern West Bengal state, where he lives with his son's family.

According to the jail's website, 384 freedom fighters were repatriated to the Indian mainland a few years before independence in 1947, of which only 28 were alive when the country celebrated 50 years of its independence from British rule in 1997.

Most of them are believed to have died since then.

The country still officially honors the freedom fighters. In India's grand Republic Day parade in New Delhi Thursday, a float commemorating them will be paraded along with the usual tanks, soldiers, missiles and fighter jets.

"The jail and the freedom fighters will be the theme of a tableau from the Andamans for the parade this year. We have put up statues showing people who fought for the country," says jail curator Rasheeda Iqbal from Port Blair, capital of the Andaman and Nicobar islands.

Bhowmick, a member of the Jugantar (revolution) Party fighting against British occupation was arrested in 1934 under the Arms Act, from Rangpur village in what is now Bangladesh.

"Then, we were called terrorists. Now, they call us freedom fighters," he says.

"My grandfather had guns at home for self-defense. They were never needed," Bhowmick's 15-year-old grandson Mallar chimes in.

After two years in the district jail in Rangpur, Bhowmick was sent to the Andamans and said he is a witness to physical abuse by the British jailers.

"Even at district jail, we were shackled. We slept in the cold," he recalls.

"They broke an inmate's leg by beating him up. They beat two people till they died. We drank water from a dirty pit." *AFP*

WORLDBRIEFS

Astronomers find planet

NEW YORK—Astronomers say they've found what may be the smallest and most distant planet known to be orbiting a star outside our own solar system. The discovery suggests that such small rocky or icy planets may be more common in the cosmos than Jupiter-sized gas giant planets, researchers said. It also indicates the power of a relatively new method of finding such "exoplanets." All of the exoplanets discovered so far around distant stars are larger than Earth. The newly found planet is about 5.5 times the mass of Earth, making it much smaller than most of the 160 previous exoplanet discoveries. *AP*

Bird flu death in China

BEIJING—A Chinese woman infected with bird flu has died, the World Health Organization (WHO) said on Wednesday, and Indonesia treated a chicken seller suspected of contracting the virus. The victim, a 29-year-old woman surnamed Cao, was the seventh person to die from bird flu in China since November. The WHO said the woman died on Monday after falling ill with a fever on Jan. 12. Bird flu has killed at least 83 people since it reemerged in late 2003, WHO said. *Reuters*

Branded wife

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras—Honduran authorities said Wednesday they briefly detained a police officer accused of tying up his wife, gagging her and then branding the letter "P" for prostitute on her left buttock after she allegedly cheated on him. A Honduran judge ordered Sgt. Miguel Antonio Torres, 40, to be detained for less than 24 hours and then told him to stay away from his 37-year-old wife, Noelis Rossany Diaz. Diaz said she was 17 when her husband branded her 20 years ago after accusing her of being unfaithful. *AP*

Bolivia first lady

LA PAZ—President Evo Morales' sister will give up her butcher shop to become Bolivia's first lady, filling the role because the new leftist leader is single, his office said Wednesday. Esther Morales, 54, is married with three children and owns a grocery shop that sells beef and llama meat in the small town of Oruro, 200 km south of La Paz. Esther Morales, who raised her younger brother after their mother died, has refused to be referred to as first lady, saying it was contrary to her humble social class. She has announced that she will use her role to help the country's poor, as well as the widows and orphans of victims of an October 2003 protest that left 80 dead and led to then-President Gonzalo Sanchez de Lozada's downfall. *AFP*

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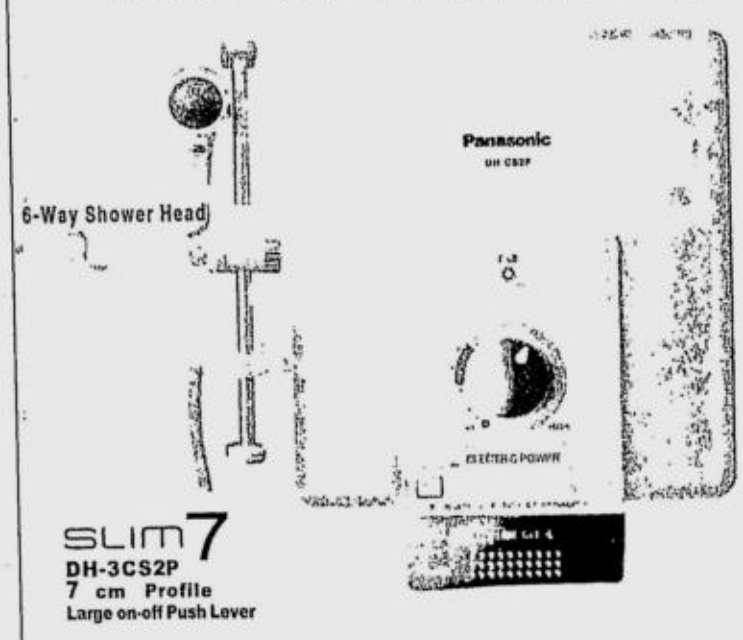

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TIME TO STAND UP FOR THE NATION'S HONOR

(A manifesto of the officials of North Cotabato in relation to the refusal of the US Government to turn over to the Philippine Courts the US soldiers charged with rape.)

Over the last few weeks, we, the officials of the Province of North Cotabato, followed with anxiety the story of a group of American soldiers charged with rape by a Filipina in Luzon.

While we realize that the soldiers are presumed innocent until proven guilty, we watched with great interest the handling by the United States Government of the case considering the fact that we are also hosting for the second time a group of American soldiers under the Balance Piston program which is part of the Balikatan Exercises.

We were therefore greatly disappointed when, as reported in the media, the US Government refused to allow the American soldiers to be placed under the jurisdiction of the Philippine courts.

The arrogance displayed by the US Government in this case is unbecoming of a nation which for so long has been considered as an ally of the Philippines and whose people are considered dear friends by many of us.

We, the officials of North Cotabato, look at this development with great concern. What if, God forbid, a similar case would happen during the conduct of the Balance Piston exercises in our province? Would the US government turn over the suspects to our local courts? With the Luzon case as a precedent, the answer is most probably No.

We cannot allow this to happen because in this little place we call home, we have always believed that No One is Above the Law.

In view of this, we, the Provincial Officials, met January 23 and agreed on the following positions:

1. **We are Filipinos and we cannot sit down and play host to the soldiers of a nation which insults and hurts a people who consider America a friend;**
2. **We call on the US Government, however small and faint our voices are, to respect the Philippines as a sovereign nation and immediately turn over the American soldiers charged with rape to the jurisdiction of the Philippine courts;**
3. **We call on President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to inform the US Government of the officials of North Cotabato's desire to immediately suspend the Balance Piston Exercises in our province should the US continue to turn down the request of the Philippine courts to have jurisdiction over the accused American soldiers;**
4. **We agree that we will refuse the conduct of future Balikatan Exercises in the Province of North Cotabato if the US Government continues to display arrogance in cases like the alleged rape of a Filipina in Luzon.**

During the first conduct of the Balikatan Exercises, the Governor of the Province welcomed the officers of the US contingent by hosting the Governor's Night at the Provincial Capitol. This activity has been cancelled.

While we recognize the great help of the US Government in the rehabilitation program of our province which is a former conflict area – from agricultural assistance to books for our schools – we have to stand shoulder to shoulder with our fellow Filipinos who are deeply pained by the inconsiderate attitude of the American government.

We cannot just happily count the blessings we received from the US Government and turn a deaf ear and close our eyes to the fact that the whole nation is being slapped around and insulted by a country whose ideals of democracy and justice we so dearly embrace.

We are One People in One Nation called Republic of the Philippines.

Signed this 24th day of January 2006 at the Provincial Capitol in Amas, Kidapawan City, North Cotabato, the Philippines.

HON. EMMANUEL F. PINOL
Provincial Governor

HON. JESUS N. SACDALAN
Provincial Vice Governor

Provincial Board Members:

HON. SOLEMA P. JUBILAN

HON. REYNALDO G. PAGAL

HON. VAN D. CADUNGON

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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Release of Iraq women detainees may help free kidnapped US reporter

BAGHDAD—IRAQ WAS TO release women detainees from the infamous Abu Ghraib prison on Thursday in a move which might help free a US reporter abducted by insurgents, one of a number of foreigners taken hostage in recent weeks.

An Iraqi justice ministry official said 424 detainees were to be freed Thursday following a review of their cases by a joint Iraqi-US board. These would include five of the eight women known to be held by US forces.

CARROLL in undated photo AFP

The kidnappers of US journalist Jill Carroll, seized on a Baghdad street on Jan. 7, have threatened to kill her unless all Iraqi women detainees are set free.

The official denied that the release of the women had anything to do with kidnappers' demands, and US forces have stressed they do not negotiate with hostage-takers.

But a recent spike in hostage-taking of foreigners has embarrassed the government.

"Government services are doing all they can to free people kidnapped and detained," President Jalal Talabani's office said Wednesday, quoting minister for national security Abdul Karim al-Anizi who met the president.

More than 250 foreigners have been seized since the March 2003 US-led invasion which toppled dictator Saddam Hussein. A number of them, including Westerners, have been killed.

US and Iraqi forces are searching for two German engineers, Rene Braunlich and Thomas Nilzchke, the most recent kidnap victims, seized at gunpoint on Tuesday by men posing as Iraqi soldiers outside an oil refinery in Baiji, northern Iraq.

"We are trying at the moment to obtain any information possible," German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier said in Berlin, adding that no contact had been established with the captors yet.

Two Kenyan telecommunications engineers were abducted last week after their bodyguards were gunned down in Baghdad and there was still no news on the fate of four Western peace activists seized in November.

Meanwhile, a Jordanian hostage said in a videotape his captors had set a new deadline to execute him.

The recent spate of hostage-taking, which could be politically or simply financially motivated, comes as Iraqi political parties jockey for position ahead of official talks on forming a broad-based government.

Washington hopes the new government, to be set up in the wake of the Dec. 15 elections, will include representatives of the Sunni Arab minority, a move which could undermine the ongoing insurgency. *AFP*

Americans face prosecution for child-sex tours

SAN FRANCISCO—AMERICANS CAUGHT paying children for sex in foreign countries can be prosecuted in the United States, a federal appeals court ruled in upholding a two-year-old law criminalizing such behavior.

Michael Lewis Clark, a 71-year-old military veteran and the first person charged under the so-called Protect Act for having paid sex with minors in Cambodia, had argued that US law enforcement's reach shouldn't extend overseas.

But a divided 9th Circuit US Court of Appeals ruled Wednesday that Congress' constitutional authority to regulate commerce with foreign countries allows for the prosecution of Clark and other Americans on underage sex tours abroad because they pay for sex.

"The illicit sexual conduct reached by the statute expressly includes commercial sex acts performed by a US citizen on foreign soil," Judge M. Margaret McKeown wrote for the 2-1 majority of the appeals panel that considered the case. "This conduct might be immoral and criminal, but it is also commercial."

Clark reserved his right to appeal in 2004 when he pleaded guilty in a federal court in Seattle to soliciting sex from two Cambodian boys, ages 10 and 13. He was sentenced to 97 months in prison.

Prosecutors said Clark may have had sex with as many as 50 children in Cambodia, paying them $2 each. *AP*

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Dead end

THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCLUDED its joint committee hearings on the issue of wiretapping Wednesday without getting anywhere. The Arroyo administration, of course, will welcome the end of the House hearings and once more declare that closure has been achieved. It has not. To be sure, a joint committee report will be written, but it will more likely than not, result in the same questions that emerged in July being restated for the record. The questions are still there. They remain valid.

EDITORIAL

If in the months prior to June last year questions were raised about President Macapagal-Arroyo's performance, from July onwards, the question became a deeper one—that of the legitimacy of her presidency, which later turned into a question of whether she should remain in office or not. The first two questions to the minds of many observers, were lost by the President. She, however, won on the question of her removal. Since December, the President has attempted to put an end to the third question by posing a new one: What sort of governing system should we have? This fourth question remains hounded by the first three—not least because there is a new factor—military unrest—giving a new lease on life to the question of whether she should—or can—remain in power.

The end of the House hearings points to a broader problem: the inability of the existing system to get to the bottom of controversies involving government's actions. It is clear from the nature of congressional inquiries, which are limited by their having to be devoted to the objective of drafting new legislation or improving old laws, and the tactical behavior of the presidency, which has been to protect its interests even at the expense of other state institutions, that the system's need to reinvigorate and correct itself from time to time has been thwarted. Congress can only inquire in aid of legislation, and its right to exercise oversight over the executive is limited to the period during which the new budget is under consideration. For the past few years, we've seen that even this vital function can be rendered ineffective—if the executive decides to drag its feet, or convinces its allies in Congress to take the path of least resistance and simply allow the previous budget to be carried over. A reenacted budget is always beneficial to the executive which gets a free hand in realigning funds for purely political considerations.

It's even more beneficial now that the VAT has been expanded, giving the government more income, and yet removing that income, in effect, from the coverage of a new budget. Last year's budget doesn't take into account the government's new income; which means that by default, the executive has been given discretion on how those funds are spent. Something very useful, incidentally, for patronage in support of Charter change.

How does the danger of Congress' failing to enact a new budget this year, connect with the questions concerning the President's performance, legitimacy and staying in office? It connects because while it fosters the executive's chances to shuffle funds around, it also further weakens the checks and balances in our existing system. Checks and balances that the public has been counting on to resolve, peacefully, democratically and constitutionally, the question of the President's fitness for office.

The House, if it's really interested in addressing the concerns of the public, and the Senate, if it's really after according the public every opportunity to get to the bottom of serious issues, must take stock of the lessons made obvious over the past few months. That lesson is that Congress is bound by the law and constitutional practice, and cannot therefore be a proper investigative body. On the other hand, neither can the presidency be relied on to investigate and punish wrongdoing on the part of its agents.

We are back where some concerned individuals were months ago. Nothing happened to Sen. Francisco Pangilinan's Senate bill seeking to name a special counsel to investigate government wrongdoing on a case to case basis. While the Ombudsman may be there to look into financial irregularities, a means has to be found to look into political crimes. As there are no higher political crimes than treason, the subversion of the electoral process and the official cover-up, refocusing on Pangilinan's bill should be a priority.

Council of State? No, a cheering squad

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

WHAT COUNCIL OF STATE? THAT WAS NOT a Council of State that met in Malacañang the other day, that was a cheering squad, a rubber stamp, a big bunch of "yes men."

As with the appointments to the unconstitutional Consultative Commission, Ate Glue chose mostly those known to favor Charter change. Opposition leaders boycotted the meeting. And so the meeting predictably endorsed Cha-cha (that was the main reason the meeting was called, wasn't it?) but not "No-El." No mention was made of the immediate problems besetting the people: poverty, lack of jobs, crime, graft and corruption in high places, slow administration of justice, etc. Again, it was the administration express train running at full speed. Even Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan was disappointed. That was no Council of State meeting, he quipped, "it was more like a Cha-cha railroad meet."

To me, it was like the US Cavalry galloping to the rescue of a wagon train under attack by Indians in the old Western movies. The wagon train was Ate Glue and the Cavalry was the "Council of State" meeting. The latter was intended to save the former from being kicked out by the people represented by the Indians.

Let's face it, everything that Ate Glue and her minions are doing now is for her survival until 2010. Will she survive?

* * *

When the Energy and Power Industry Reform Act (Epira) was being debated in Congress, the National Power Corp. promised that it would lower the cost of electricity. Four years after the law was enacted, we are instead facing even higher power rates. The reason? The Napocor has reneged on its promise by intentionally blocking efforts to privatize its assets, thereby causing this graft-ridden agency to incur more debts that are being added to the national debt.

The Napocor is now the biggest debtor in the country, with a foreign debt of $9.1 billion (multiply that by P52.50). This does not include its obligations to local creditors that also run into billions of pesos. Its foreign and domestic debts make up one-third of our total debts, and contribute immensely to our ballooning budget deficit.

Who's going to pay for all that? We the taxpayers, of course.

The Epira could have prevented the government from further bleeding but what the Napocor did is contrary to Epira's intent. The law's vision is clear: proceeds from the sale of Napocor's assets will be used to pay its debts, saving the country from further hemorrhaging.

Instead of being castigated for their "intentional" failure to privatize Napocor, officials have resorted to various gimmicks to divert the heat away from them.

Take the case of Executive Order 474, creating the Philippine Strategic Oil, Gas, Energy Resources and Power Infrastructure Office (Psogerpio) which was, in spite of legal infirmities, slipped right under our noses. Then there was the planned takeover of Meralco. These two events show how our power planners are covering up the issue of mismanagement and corruption in Napocor. After all, why privatize Napocor when it is a steady and rich cash cow for its officials who grant themselves fat salaries and allowances?

Another decoy is Napocor's claim that Meralco is charging consumers for unused electricity. It should be pointed out that this is allowed by the agreement Napocor forced Meralco to sign.

As a requirement imposed by foreign financial institutions for multibillion-peso loans to Napocor back in the 1990s, the power firm had to make sure that it had a long-term contract to supply electricity to Meralco, its biggest customer. In mid-1993, the government, through the Department of Energy, directed Meralco to enter into a 10-year contract with Napocor. Meralco at that time did not need to sign any contract with Napocor as it would gain nothing from it. Even in the absence of a contract, Meralco would, by default, have to source its power from Napocor. However, the government insisted and Meralco dutifully complied.

Thus, on Nov. 21, 1994, Meralco signed a 10-year contract for the sale of electricity (CSE) to buy a fixed quantity of electricity from Napocor, regardless of whether or not the same is used by customers. Meralco had no choice but to pass this cost to its consumers as the contract with Napocor provides. It is important to remember that it was Napocor that put this stipulation in the contract, which Meralco had no choice but to follow.

But to explain the logic behind this practice of having power reserves and passing the cost to consumers, it is a necessary system carried out not only in the Philippines but also in other countries. The demand for electricity varies. Use of power is higher at night, during summer when more air conditioners are in use, during winter when heaters are in use, and during the Christmas season for obvious reasons, and when there is a power breakdown somewhere and electricity from other sources must take over. Therefore, there must always be power reserves for such emergencies.

Power companies are required by the government to assure these reserves. Without them, consumers will be hit by blackouts. The reserves provide the critical buffer to prevent blackouts and power price peaks. They assure that the power needs of consumers are met even during peak hours and seasons.

Since the reserves are for the benefit of consumers, it is only fair that they bear the cost of these reserves. If not, prudent power companies would play safe and under-contract their power needs, leaving consumers perpetually short of power.

What the Court really said about Edsa 1

PASSION FOR REASON

Raul C. Pangalangan

WHAT WILL BREAK THE POLITICAL IMPASSE and what legal shape will it take? There seems to be a sense that any solution must be within the framework of the Constitution, and thus proposals for President Macapagal-Arroyo and Vice President Noli de Castro to step down and pave the way for new elections, or for Charter change that will modify our form of government and provide the President a graceful exit.

But history shows that the two past Edsas that invigorated our politics also strained our Constitution, yet they were eventually validated by the Supreme Court. Let us look at how the Court reconciled People Power with constitutionalism in the past so that we can imagine how future political transitions can be made constitutionally seamless.

Cory Aquino's assumption of power in 1986 was anything but constitutional in the strictest sense of that word. To start with, the indignation that led to Edsa 1, though it had been building up since Ninoy's assassination in August 1983, was proximately triggered by the manipulated presidential elections of Feb. 7, 1986.

The first "extra-constitutional" touch was that those "snap elections" were not scheduled until 1987. Marcos received a fresh six-year mandate when he handily won the elections of 1981. Yet, while being interviewed on American TV in the autumn of 1985 and chided about his lack of a mandate, he said: Sure, I'll submit myself to the people's judgment.

To bring forward the elections by one year, he submitted a post-dated resignation, telling the Speaker of the Batasang Pambansa that he intended to resign effective Feb. 7, and—since Marcos had prudently left the vice presidency vacant all those years, lest there be a Lin Biao to Marcos' Mao—could they please hold the snap elections? That was challenged before the Supreme Court: the proposed polls were one year too early, and if Marcos wanted to run, he should first step down. But the Court deferred to history, said that a sovereign political exercise was already on-going, and concluded: "The elections are on."

After Marcos was ousted, Aquino was sworn in by "the people's mandate clearly manifested [during the last elections] and by the will of the Filipino people." Stating that her government had been "installed through a direct exercise of the power of the Filipino people assisted by units of the New Armed Forces," she promulgated her Freedom Constitution, the interim charter by which she ruled until the present Constitution was adopted in January 1987.

Aquino's enemies went to the Supreme Court. The Court was candid about her legal mandate. "Mrs. Aquino's rise to the presidency was not due to constitutional processes; in fact it was achieved in violation of the provisions of the 1973 Constitution as a Batasang Pambansa resolution had earlier declared Mr. Marcos as the winner in the 1986 Presidential election."

Edsa 1 "signaled the point where the legal system then in effect had ceased to be obeyed by the Filipino." Thus, the Court said, the Aquino government was "revolutionary in the sense that it came into existence in defiance of existing legal processes." The Court concluded: Cory being in effective control of the entire country, its legitimacy was "not a justiceable matter [but] belongs to the realm of politics where only the people ... are the judge."

Finally, all legal challenges to her mandate were laid to rest when the people adopted the new Constitution. In its transitory clause, it "synchronized" the elections and extended by a few months the terms of the "the incumbent President and Vice President elected in the February 7, 1986 election." Marcos loyalists can argue about who was actually "elected" in February 1986, but there can be no doubt that Aquino was the "incumbent President" on January 1987 referred to in the proposed charter.

Some small lessons: First, the constitutional washing of hands in the Edsa 1 cases is actually dangerous, but it can be used again. Indeed, that same logic was used by the Court at an earlier, equally historic moment when it upheld the bogus ratification of the Marcos constitution in 1973. What the rules required was a proper plebiscite, but all that Marcos offered was a mere show of hands in "peoples' assemblies." That was legally defective, but the people had spoken. The Court asked: Who are we to second-guess the sovereign? "If they had risen up in arms and by force deposed the then existing government ... their act would be political and not subject to judicial review. We do not see any difference if no force had been resorted to and the people, in defiance of the existing Constitution, peacefully... ordained a new Constitution."

Second, transitional clauses in new constitutions are full of mischief, and can be used to validate a questioned mandate. Even a clause shortening GMA's term, impishly referring to an "incumbent President elected with a little help from Garci," may cloud President Arroyo with Garci's taint but, once approved by the people in the plebiscite, it would mean that the people have thus ratified her disputed 2004 mandate.

Third, the Court has repeatedly refused to be bound by narrow legal analyses and has chosen to "pierce the veil" of lawyer-speak to see history's truth, but it will wait for an Edsa moment that would "signal the point where the legal system then in effect had ceased to be obeyed by the Filipino."

In subsequent pieces, I will explore why it can be dangerous to have a Court too closely attuned to the pulse of the people or too conscious of its place in history.

* * *

Comments to passionforreason@gmail.com

Justice is reconciliation

COMMENTARY

Desmond Tutu

IN SOUTH AFRICA, INDEED AROUND THE world, we are raised on a strict diet of justice as retribution. With violent crimes on a shocking upsurge, with the hideous crimes of child rape and abuse on the increase, there are frequent calls—backed by wide public support—to restore capital punishment. Mercifully, South Africa's Constitutional Court has ruled that the death penalty, which South Africans eliminated at the same time we were liberated from apartheid, is unconstitutional.

Sadly, in many places in the world, it seems that men and women have not advanced beyond the biblical admonition of "an eye for an eye" in their yearning for retribution. Indeed, some Muslim countries amputate the hands of convicted thieves in public.

But that biblical adage was in fact invoked originally to curb blood feuds from claiming the innocent relatives of the person who committed the killing. "An eye for an eye" asks that the culprit should be the sole target, and not others whose only crime was to be related to him.

So the "eye for an eye" adage was not intended to mean what it has come to mean, namely, that killing be paid for by another killing. Given the brutality of the apartheid era, that would have never worked in my homeland.

Some South Africans called for Nuremberg-type trials, especially for perpetrators of those atrocities that were designed to maintain the vicious apartheid system. There were demands that the guilty be brought to book.

But we were fortunate in that Nuremberg was not really an option for us. Nuremberg happened because the Allies inflicted unconditional surrender on the Nazis and so could impose a so-called victor's justice. In our case, neither the apartheid government nor the liberation movements could defeat each other. We had a military deadlock. Moreover, in the case of Nuremberg, the prosecutors and judges could pack up their bags after the trial and leave Germany for their several homes. We had to make our homes in this, our common motherland, and learn to live with one another.

Such trials would probably have gone on nearly forever, leaving gaping wounds open. It would have been difficult to procure the evidence to get convictions. We all know just how cunning bureaucrats can be in destroying incriminating evidence.

So it was a mercy that our country chose to go the way of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, granting amnesty in exchange for the truth. This was ultimately based on the principles of restorative justice and *ubuntu*.

At the TRC hearings, we were exposed to gruesome details about atrocities that were committed to uphold or to oppose apartheid. "We gave him drugged coffee and shot him in the head and then we burned his body. As it takes seven to eight hours for a human body to burn, we had a *braaivleis* on the side, drinking beer and eating meat." How low men can sink in our inhumanity!

Each time such horrible stories were published, we had to remind ourselves that, yes indeed, the acts were demonic, but the perpetrators remained each a child of God. A monster has no moral responsibility and so cannot be held accountable; but even more seriously, designating someone a monster closes the door to possible rehabilitation. Restorative justice and *ubuntu* are based firmly on the recognition of the fundamental humanity of even the worst possible offender.

We cannot give up on anybody. If it was true that people could not change, that once a murderer always a murderer, then the whole TRC process would have been impossible. It happened because we believed that even the worst racist had the capacity to change. And I think we in South Africa have not done badly; at least that is what the rest of the world seems to think of our transformation and the TRC process. Because an "eye for an eye" can never work when communities are in conflict: reprisal leads to a counter-reprisal in the sort of blood spiral we are seeing in the Middle East.

The type of justice South Africa practiced, what I call "restorative justice" is, unlike retribution, not basically concerned with punishment, it is not fundamentally punitive. It sets high store by healing. The offense has caused a breach in relations and this breach needs to be healed. It regards the offender as a person, as a subject with a sense of responsibility and a sense of shame, who needs to be reintegrated into the community and not ostracized.

There is a wealth of wisdom in the old ways of African society. Justice was a communal affair and society set a high store by social harmony and peace. The belief was that a person is a person only through other persons, and a broken person needed to be helped to be healed .What the offense had disturbed should be restored, and the offender and the victim had to be helped to be reconciled.

Justice as retribution often ignores the victim, and the system is usually impersonal and cold. Restorative justice is hopeful. It believes that even the worst offender can become a better person.

This does not mean being soft on crime. Offenders must realize the seriousness of their offenses by the kind of sentences they get, but there must be hope—hope that the offender can become a useful member of society, after paying the price they owe to society.

When we act as if we really believe that someone can be better, is better, then they will often rise to our expectations. *Project Syndicate*

Archbishop Desmond Tutu is a winner of the Nobel Prize for Peace.

'Amor, te quiero mucho'

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"AMOR, TE QUIERO MUCHO," HE CROONED IN to his Nokia "Communicator" and at that moment you could hear 80 million Filipinos start to throw up.

Actually, I wasn't one of them as I stood up and took a shower seconds after spotting the First Gentleman shove his cell phone in front of Manny Pacquiao. So I didn't hear what transpired afterwards, which was Mike Arroyo signing off with those words of endearment to his missus.

Friends, who are much kinder than me or the forwarders of derogatory text messages, plead that we give the First Couple the benefit of the doubt. "How do you know, that's really the way they say goodbye to each other?" one of them said. Even so, did he have to say it in a voice loud and clear enough to be captured on video?

And at their age—there is such a thing as proper decorum, after all. And sweet nothings are not what people glued to their TV sets to celebrate a boxing victory want to hear. People who joined the throng watching the Pacquiao-Morales bout in movie houses report that the second they spotted politicians in the ring, the crowd erupted into loud and angry boos. You can imagine how they reacted when the First Gentleman made his declaration of love.

The typical "take" on this incident is that it's all a matter of show, given the rumors that have been circulating even before Sen. Ping Lacson made his PowerPoint exposé about Vicky Toh. And with the Tohs—brother and sister—in the spotlight again because of their alleged involvement in big-time smuggling operations with the supposed connivance of Customs officials, it does seem imperative that the First Couple present a united front.

So what did the President say in reply?

* * *

BY TONIGHT, we should know whether former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman will be spending a night (or nights) in jail or if her petition to post bail will be granted.

The libel case stems from a "revelation" made by Dinky during a press conference of the Black and White Movement that she overheard the President conferring with her political adviser Gabby Claudio and directing Claudio to "tell" Alagad party-list Rep. Rodante Marcoleta to go ahead and endorse the impeachment complaint of lawyer Oliver Lozano.

The "Lozano complaint," which was the one the House justice committee decided to hear, was, in the view of many but especially of the political opposition, weak and insubstantial and of doubtful provenance, the motives of its author being suspect then and till now. This was the reason none of the oppositionists in the House wanted to file it.

But when the "Hello, Garci" scandal came to light, and given House rules about hearing only one impeachment complaint in a year, the opposition had no choice but to work with the Lozano complaint by "amending" it with more substantial charges. As we all know by now, the justice committee later voted to scrap the "amended" complaint and chose to hear only Lozano's charges, which of course they later dismissed for "lack of substance."

* * *

ISN'T it funny how, in the wake of the "Hello, Garci" wiretapping scandal, the allegations of poll fraud that this gave rise to, and the failed impeachment hearings, the only legal proceeding to make any sort of progress has been the libel complaint filed by Marcoleta against Dinky?

Dinky, one of the "Hyatt 10" and the most visible and vocal in the months since their collective resignation, has come under extra-heavy and extra-special vitriolic attacks—from her perceived disloyalty to the President, her hypocrisy among her fellow Cabinet members, and even to innuendo regarding alleged financial shenanigans as social welfare secretary and in her time as an NGO leader.

But this takes the cake. From my own experience as a media person facing down a number of libel cases, this case has moved with lightning speed. I also wonder how the prosecutor found "prima facie" evidence of libel, when the issue Dinky talked about—Marcoleta's involvement in the impeachment case—is clearly a matter of public interest.

As Dinky's lawyers (including her husband Hec) tell it, last Jan. 20, a Friday, a police officer—who was mysteriously accompanied by the media—showed up at the Soliman residence at 3 p.m. to serve the warrant of arrest. But Dinky was nowhere to be found as she is in Cambodia, which was fortunate because otherwise she would have been hauled off to jail, since a bail bond would have been impossible to secure, given that the courts would be closed for the weekend.

(This is, for those not in the know, a very typical harassment tactic of complainants, including those suing media persons for libel, if only to subject the object of their ire to the embarrassment and inconvenience of one or two nights' stay in jail. It has been, as far as I know, disallowed by the Supreme Court.)

* * *

BAIL for a libel case is usually set at P10,000. The Solimans, I am told, are ready to pay the amount. But for the judge to issue the release order, Dinky would have to show up before the judge and sign some documents.

Yesterday, her lawyer appeared before the judge to present her appeal that she be allowed to post bail in absentia, after which the release order would be issued, and the signed documents to follow first thing Monday morning. Sen. Kiko Pangilinan even issued an undertaking as "guarantor" for this appeal.

The judge, however, denied Dinky's appeal, and ordered her to appear before a judge tonight—where she will either post bail and walk free, or spend a night or two among the inmates of Quezon City jail.

Today also happens to be Dinky's birthday. And it is in this spirit that we say: "*Amor, te quiero mucho,*" Dinky. Have a nice weekend!

Technology and change

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

LAST FRIDAY, I GAVE A KEYNOTE LECTURE in a workshop on "Promoting Technology in Education, Culture, History and Sciences." I wondered why the organizers invited a historian to speak on the topic of technology. Historians deal with the past, not the future. History, at best, is a guide, something that gives perspective to the present and the future. If you want a look into the past, you call a historian or an archeologist, but if you want to talk of the future, you are better advised to seek Madam Auring, she of the famous line "*May asim pa ako* (I still have what it takes)."

The conference theme started on the wrong, premise because technology must always be promoted; you cannot avoid it. Technology is the tsunami that has changed our lives. Who would have thought, 25 years ago, that almost every Filipino would have a phone? Today's generation are too young to remember the time when people waited years to get a phone line installed in their homes. We were fortunate to have a phone, but we had to share it with complete strangers. The "party-line" was an awkward arrangement because you could listen to the conversation of the other party, and if you were inconsiderate, you used the phone for long periods (then called "*telebabad*") and got upset when the party-line asked to use the line. Obnoxious party-lines would hang the phone so both of you could not use it. Phones bring out the worst in Filipinos, but that is a topic best left to an anthropologist like Michael Tan.

Today cell phones are so common and they even allow us to call or text anyone in the world. I have actually lived long enough to see technological change in our lives.

Imagine you are Rizal's family who received a letter from Europe. Rizal is in Marseilles and he described his carpeted rooms, marble staircase etc. and "hydraulic elevators for going up and down all the floors without lifting one foot." People in our time all know what an elevator is, but in 1882, Rizal's family had never been in or even seen an elevator. How do you think they understood going up and down a building without lifting a foot? Now that is technology, that is a paradigm shift.

Then we have Marcelo del Pilar writing a newsy letter to his wife Tsanay in Bulacan. The letter is dated February 1890 and says in part:

"Akoy nagpalagay na tuloy ng telefono sa bahay at nang hindi na ako magkailangang manaog sa pakikipag intindihan sa imprenta: at ang iba pang imprenta ay malayo sa tinitirhan ko ... sa telefono ay limang piso isang buan, at nakikipag-usap ka sa lahat ng may telefono kaya kung kailangan makipag salitaan sa imprenta o sa ibat iba mang periodico ay di na ako lumalayo sa aking mesa despacho, titindig lamang ako tatauag makakausap ko na. Kahapon lamang nakabit ang teleponong ito: Si Quiroga ay may telefono din ano pat kahit kami ay nagkakalayo ay para ring malapit."

Today we have mobile phones, and find it hard to imagine what Tsanay felt and thought in February 1890. A telephone was beyond her experience and imagination, but it is part of our everyday lives.

As anyone can see, we do not need to promote technology. It's the other way round: technology shapes us.

Now we bring the story to contemporary times, to my own personal history. When I was a freshman I had to learn how to do my first term paper on a manual typewriter. You needed a guide to do margins. Footnotes were particularly troublesome, especially if you made a mistake. When I was in 2nd year (I remember this clearly), I submitted a paper that was printed out in a noisy dot matrix computer on continuous paper and my teacher refused to accept it because it was not stapled, so I separated the sheets and handed it over. She looked at the print-out and still refused to accept it because it was not typewritten.

When I started in journalism, I joined the now defunct Philippines Daily Express, the first Philippine newspaper to use computers, yet we all wrote on typewriters and the layout was done manually. Like most journalists beating a deadline, the adrenaline came from the noise and physical exertion of writing. We typed our stories furiously on those rickety contraptions and used rolls of newsprint so we did not have to reload by sheets. When we edited our work, we literally did cut and paste or rather cut and staple. Today computers are nearly noiseless.

In the next newspaper I joined, the Daily Globe, we saw the generation gap very clearly because half the newsroom had computers while the other half had typewriters, both manual and electric. All the young ones were on the computer side, and all the veterans were on the manual side.

The shift from long-hand writing to typewriters and eventually to computers is the simplest example of technology changing our lives for the better. There are other examples, from tape on reels and vinyl records to the iPod, the instamatic camera to the digicam, from simple hand-made children's games to complicated hand-held games. History is being made. We see it but don't notice it.

* * *

At 2 p.m, tomorrow, Saturday, Jan. 27, I'm giving a lecture on "Rizal, Books, and Reading" at the Lopez Memorial Museum, Benpres Building, Ortigas Center. The reading public is cordially invited. For more information call 6312417.

* * *

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Seasons and rhythms

I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING A CALENDAR from Jesuit Communications. At first glance, it's a Catholic liturgical calendar, naming important feast days and suggesting Bible readings for each day. But if you look more closely, you'll find each day also has Chinese characters, which it turns out, are dates according to the Chinese lunar year.

This year, for the 29th of January, you'll find the Chinese characters *chunjie* or Spring Festival, known more commonly as "Chinese New Year."

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

I'm always getting questions about what this Chinese New Year is. People ask why each New Year seems to fall on a different date in the Gregorian calendar. Others ask about the animals we name each year for, and what they mean. Many of my friends are dog-lovers so they're especially intrigued about what this Fire Dog year might mean.

New moon, full moon

Let me try to respond to some of those questions by starting with the idea of a lunar year. The Gregorian calendar, which is used now pretty much by the entire world, is based on a solar year, with about 365 days, the time it takes our planet to orbit around the sun.

The Chinese calendar has months based on lunar cycles, with the first day of each month corresponding to the new moon and the 15th to the full moon. The lunar-based Chinese year is shorter than the Gregorian, with about 354 days. This is why the Spring Festival or lunar New Year varies each year. So while we have a lunar New Year on Jan. 30 this year, next year it will be on Feb. 18 and in 2008 it will be on Feb. 7.

The Chinese calendar, including the Jesuit one that I have in front of me, also lists 24 *jieqi* or seasonal markers. These markers have names like "start of spring," "rain water," "great heat," mainly marking important changes in the seasons and climate that are important for farmers. It's not surprising the Chinese calendar is also called *nungli* or farmers' calendar.

I've mentioned the months being based on the lunar cycles. The seasonal markers, however, have been calculated based on the solar year. Thus, *lichun*, or the start of spring, falls each year on Feb. 4, which will correspond to a different lunar date each year.

Because the solar cycles are also important, the Chinese had to find ways to adjust the discrepancies between the lengths of the solar and lunar years. If we have leap years in the Gregorian calendar every four years, the Chinese add an entire month—what's called an intercalary month—every two or three years. That means you'll have years where there are actually 13 months!

The synchronization is complicated, but it works, so much so that every 19 years or so, the Chinese lunar calendar will have an almost perfect correspondence with the Gregorian calendar.

Curiously, the Chinese figured out all these cycles with the help of Western astronomy, which was introduced by the Jesuits in the 16th century. A German Jesuit, Adam Schall, actually helped to revise the Chinese calendar, so my fusion calendar from the Philippines' Jesuits is most appropriate.

Dog years, cat years

Each Chinese calendar year is named after a certain animal, in cycles of 12. I'm writing this column still in the old year of the rooster. On Sunday, we move into the year of the dog, which will be followed by the pig, rat, ox, tiger, rabbit, dragon, snake, horse, sheep and monkey. Each animal comes up every 12 years, but with a different designation based on the five elements: water, wood, fire, metal (or gold) and earth. So, we have the year of the Fire Dog coming up and in 12 years, it will be the Gold Dog.

The sequence of animals has more or less been adopted by China's neighbors together with the lunar calendar, with minor variations. Cat lovers will be pleased to know that the Chinese year of the rabbit is called the year of the cat in Vietnam.

The prospects for the year are described based on attributes of that year's zodiac animal. The Chinese look at the dog as a symbol of justice and equality, so the year is said to be one where injustices will be corrected. Just as dogs bark to defend their territory and their humans, we might see, this new lunar year, a more vigorous and fiery defense of justice. For the Philippines, let's just hope there's as much bite as there is barking.

Seasons of our lives

I think mainly in terms of Gregorian calendar dates, but I like having a fusion calendar where I can check the lunar dates.

Sometimes I look out into the night sky and notice what might look like a full moon. A quick check with the Chinese calendar will tell me if it is indeed a full moon. Sometimes it turns out we're only on the 14th day of a lunar month, so I can still look forward to the fullest moon the next night.

I also like the way the Chinese calendar names several of the months according to the appearance of several fruits and flowers. The second lunar month, for example, is apricot month, marking the appearance of flowers on apricot trees. The third lunar month is when you can expect peach blossoms (a splendid sight I can tell you), followed the next month by ripening plums.

The seasonal markers are also intriguing with their announcement of spring, summer, fall and winter, and within each season, events that are important for farmers: snow giving way to rain, early summer's "small" heat, followed a few weeks later by "large" heat, the appearance of autumn's white dew, the first frost heralding another winter.

We may not have four seasons or plums and apricots, but I'm amazed at how some of the events described in the Chinese calendar do transcend geography. Each year around the sixth lunar month, the lotuses bloom more profusely in my mother's garden, and I can understand why that month is named after the lotus.

Calendars shouldn't be there just to mark birthdays, or tax deadlines, or another passing year. I can imagine farmers planning way ahead with the seasonal markers on their lunar calendars on when to plant, when to harvest, and fisherfolk figuring when to go out to sea, based on the moon's cycles.

And while my Jesuit fusion calendar is there with reminders of liturgical events and religious feasts, the Chinese dates remind me of more secular observances: *qingming*, for example, means "clear and bright," describing the kind of days you get in spring with an appeal to use one of those wonderful days to visiting the cemeteries, cleaning the grave site and remembering the departed.

As we come to understand our calendars, we realize how much our lives are embedded in nature. It doesn't matter that we don't have four seasons in the Philippines—they still have meaning for us in the way they are metaphors for life's rhythms. It's not surprising that new years—lunar or solar—are timed around spring, a time when families come together to celebrate the end of a long winter and the beginning of spring, with its powerful connotations of new life and new hopes.

Where Panganiban stands

IN HIS LETTER TO THE EDITOR, Rex Rico asks for a clarification of the alleged "non-interventionist" policy of Chief Justice Artemio V. Panganiban. (PDI, 1/14/06)

First, the word "non-interventionist" did not originate from the Chief Justice. It was coined by the reporter writing the story Rico was referring to.

Second, the Chief Justice has clearly stated that he would "safeguard the liberty of the people and nurture their prosperity." He explained that "in case of doubt in interpreting laws," he would "resolve the doubt in favor of upholding the liberty—the constitutional rights—of our people."

However, in matters affecting the economy, he would resolve doubts in favor of the government policymakers (meaning the President and Congress) who were precisely elected by the people to determine policies and programs to alleviate poverty.

Of course, when these policies violate the Constitution and the laws, he would not hesitate to strike them down on the ground of "grave abuse of discretion."

For more details, Rico may read the column of Raul C. Pangalangan, titled "Tradition and popular constitutionalism." (PDI, 12/23/05) Better still, he should read Chief Justice Panganiban's book "Leveling the Playing Field," where the Chief Justice explains in full the role of the Supreme Court in the economy and business.

—ISMAEL G. KHAN JR., deputy court administrator and chief, Public Information Office, Supreme Court, Padre Faura Street, Manila

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Writers of letters to the editor are requested to include their complete address and telephone or pager number or e-mail address for verification purposes. The Inquirer will not publish any letter unless such information is supplied.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR — PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

'Pep talk' from horse's mouth

REGARDING THE "PEP TALK" EDITORIAL (PDI, 1/14/06), allow me to disagree.

To settle the issue on the government's handling of our economy and our political and social problems, why doesn't the INQUIRER initiate and interview the businessmen and find out from them the real situation: where we are now, where we are going (include trends), and what the government is trying to do?

The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

—JAIME O. DE VERA, 65 Fourth-B St., Ecoland Subd., Matina, Davao City

No desperate sergeants major

THIS IS REGARDING THE NEWS ITEM, "AFP enlisted men ask raise in allowance" (PDI, 1/12/06), where it was reported that "officers and men of the (AFP) are demanding a raise."

An accompanying photo caption also described the sergeants major as "DESPERATE: A P60 daily subsistence allowance provokes sergeants major to break out of the chain of command to ask Senator Biazon for a raise."

Allow me to set the record straight, and promptly correct that report about the soldiers. The sergeants major—led by CMS Mario Gabriel—paid a courtesy call on Sen. Rodolfo Biazon. The group made the visit to "request"—not "demand"—Senator Biazon, chair of the Senate defense committee, to continue supporting their efforts seeking the immediate approval of the proposed P120 legislated increase in subsistence allowance. Gen. Generoso Senga, the AFP chief of staff, has specifically authorized the activity, which was coordinated by the Office of Legislative Affairs (OLA), AFP.

Much as we would want to set this issue aside, we would not want the AFP sergeants major, or any AFP personnel for that matter, to be portrayed maliciously through misleading descriptions—whether mere photo captions or news headers.

Time and again, this office has been transparent with issues regarding the AFP and its chain of command. Rest assured of our continued cooperation in all matters of mutual concern.

—COL .TRISTAN M. KISON, (GSC) PA, chief, Public Information Office, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Camp Gen. Emilio Aguinaldo, Quezon City

Imperfect past, present tense

(This week's letters to the Inq7 editor on the political crisis are unanimous in saying that President Macapagal-Arroyo should go before the crisis gets worse. Besides blaming the failed impeachment move in Congress, however, not one made a concrete suggestion on how this should be done.)

WE ALWAYS READ THE INTERNET NEWS about what is going on over there. Most Filipinos want Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to resign. She should. The majority of Filipinos do not trust her. The comment on how we could prove [her] wrong when we [were] not given the chance is meritorious.—**Domingo R. Entila, drentila@AITemail.com**

VOICES ON INQ7.NET

* * *

What is this rumor that the President is going to Washington again? What boondoggle is this? The country is in a crisis, she's in a crisis, and she's going on a trip? For what purpose? To get the blessing of the most powerful country in the world? To remain in power? C'mon, Madame President, have common sense. If you call yourself a leader, stand on your own two feet and address the problems you created.

But if your going away is a prelude to resigning the job as President, then by all means, please go to Washington, Georgetown, Timbuktu. And do it sooner than later.—**Roj Cemente, M8Consult@aol.com**

* * *

No to parliamentary government. President Arroyo is only looking for a better way out of the presidency. She should not hinder the impeachment hearing if it's legality she's after. For now she should do her job by lowering the country's poverty rate.—**Yvette Sarmiento, yvette.sarmiento@gmail.com**

* * *

The so-called "Garci tapes" may have initially created a political crisis for President Arroyo, but that was moons ago! If Ms Arroyo is in fact suspected of being tied to those "tapes," the time elapsed without having a definite conclusion as to her guilt or innocence has made the incident more of a topic for colorful discussion than serious legal action.

Ms Arroyo has successfully weathered the initial impact of the storm created by the brouhaha. Only harmless tailwinds remain and [she] knows this. If she's guilty of wrongdoing, each day that passes without any serious action only enables [her] to continue hip-hopping her way out of the predicament.

Unless Congress decides to face the responsibility of taking a firm hand in this case to prove or disprove her guilt soon, my guess is [that] having survived the eye of the storm, the no-longer embattled President will merrily ride out this incident until it finally fades away [like] other big-time "incidents" in the past.—**J.T. Fuerte, castorzodiac@aol.com**

* * *

I wonder when the Filipino people will wake up. The corruption, abuse, waste and fraud in government are right under their noses. Aside from the past election fiasco, where has the P27 billion in seized Marcos funds gone? It was taken out from a Swiss bank account of a corrupt politician only to be deposited into [that of] another.

The future of this beautiful country and its beautiful people is going down the drain. The Philippine government has become the laughingstock of the world. Stop the talking and act before it is too late. It's a nightmare and it's time to wake up!—**Myra Frost, msfrost@comcast.net**

* * *

As early as [now], pro-administration people are already talking of totally scrapping the three-year term of [local government officials]. Scrapping the 2007 election is a sure way of getting things done the way the administration wants. Gloria is afraid [her] bunch of al-"lies" will be annihilated in the election and she will be left without support. An imperfect past makes the present tense. —**Fritz Parondo, fjparondo@yahoo.com**

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Isabela, Aurora folk flee flooding

'Agaton' brings rains, landslides to villages

ILAGAN, ISABELA—CONTINUOUS RAINS brought by Tropical Depression Agaton since Wednesday have flooded 100 low-lying areas in Isabela's 35 towns as well as in the cities of Cauayan and Santiago.

In Aurora province, heavy rains have submerged all 24 villages in Casiguran town under two to eight feet of floodwaters, and triggered landslides that isolated the northern parts of the province, Gov. Bellaflor Castillo-Angara told the INQUIRER by phone.

The flood, the second to hit Casiguran in three weeks, has forced 25 families to evacuate to the town hall. Four rivers that cut through the town have overflowed.

Reports from the Magat Dam reservoir in Ramon, Isabela, on Thursday showed that the dam's water level reached 195.13 meters, beyond the normal level. This forced dam officials to open six out of its nine floodgates. Major rivers and creeks in the province have swelled, resulting in massive flooding of low-lying villages, the civil defense office reported.

Major bridges have been closed to vehicular traffic since Wednesday because of the swollen rivers.

In the coastal town of Dinapigue, Mayor Renato Candido said six barangays were isolated by flash floods. He said residents in Barangays Dibulo, Digumased, Bucal Sur, Bucal Norte, Dimaluadi and Ayod were given relief goods.

In Ilagan town, rescuers have been using the town's lone rubber boat in pulling out families from low-lying areas. Mayor Delfinito Albano said they have ferried at least 20 families to safer grounds.

In Baler, the capital town of Aurora, floodwaters in Barangays Buhangin and Cabcab rose up to seven feet on Wednesday night, forcing residents there to flee to high grounds. The water began subsiding on Thursday.

The San Luis villages of Diteki and San Isidro were also flooded up to four feet.

Angara said that while landslides cut off the road network to Casiguran, Dinalungan and Dilasag towns, central Aurora continued to be accessible through the Pantabangan-Canili Road via Nueva Ecija. The Bongabon (Nueva Ecija)-Baler Road was not passable.

Rampaging waters washed away the steel bridge in Dibacong in Casiguran and a temporary bridge in Villa, Ma. Aurora.

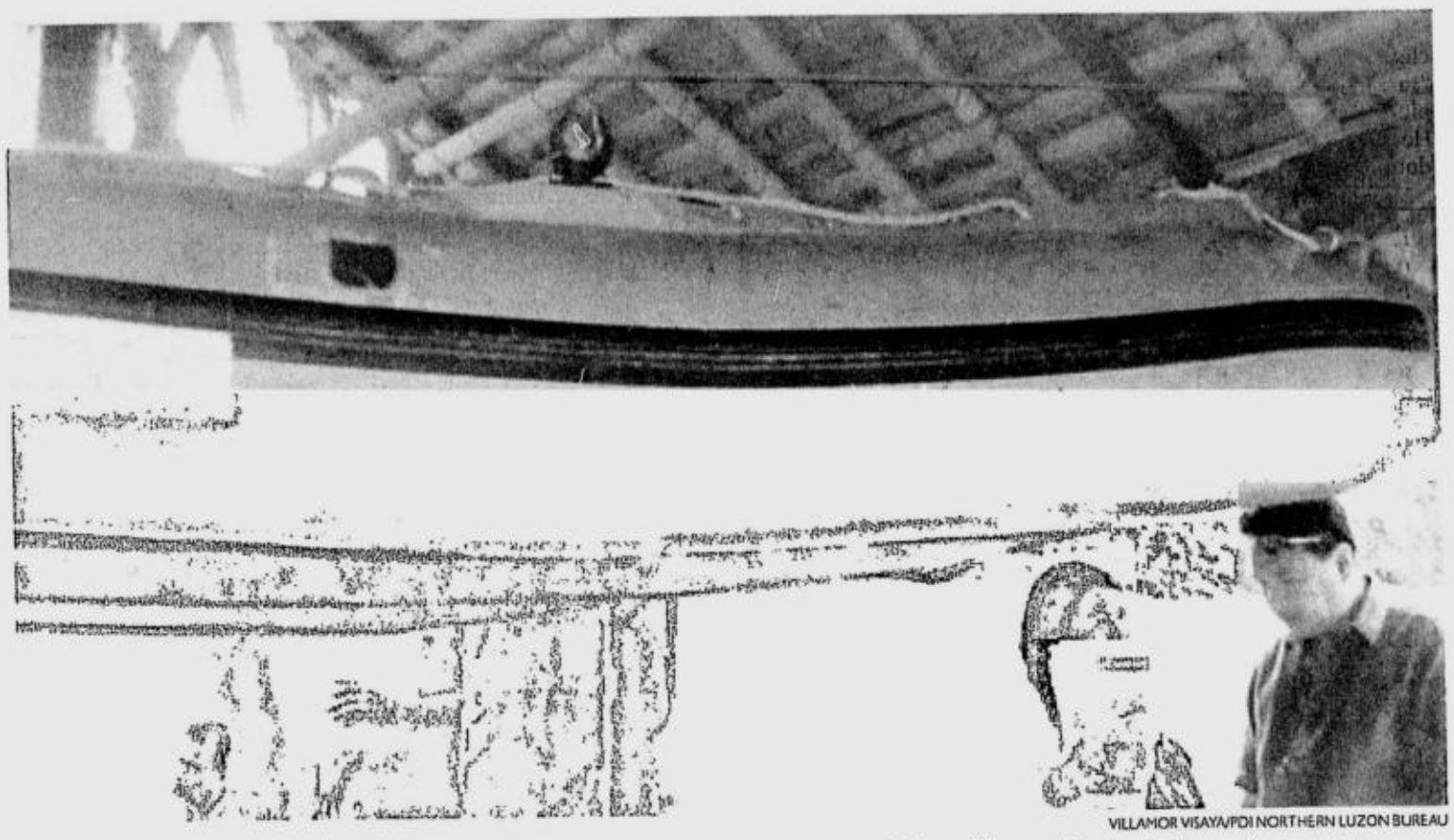
In Nueva Vizcaya, Gov. Luisa Lloren Cuaresma sent teams to Barangay Tucal in Solano town to rescue three families trapped by floods in their houses there.

She also suspended work at the provincial capitol as floodwaters submerged residential areas in Bayombong, Solano, Bambang, Villaverde and Bagabag towns.

A report received by the Provincial Disaster Management Council said one person drowned in Barangay Magsaysay in Bayombong. No identity was immediately available.

The council also ordered the evacuation of families living in low-lying areas in Barangays Sta. Lucia and Kinacao in Bagabag and Tucal and Bangar in Solano, which lie along the banks of the overflowing Magat River.

Flooding was also reported in Barangays Calaocan and Almaguer North in Bambang. *Villamor Visaya Jr. and Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau, and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*



VILLAMOR VISAYA/PDI NORTHERN LUZON BUREAU

IN DRIER times, the lone rubber boat of Ilagan, Isabela is hung at a site near the town hall, awaiting use. Its turn to be used came on Wednesday and yesterday when incessant rains poured on the town and brought floods that forced several families to evacuate.

New probe starts as MGB says cyanide levels safe

SORSOGON CITY—AN INDEPENDENT investigation of the suspected chemical contamination of the waters of Sorsogon started Wednesday as the regional head of the Mines and Geosciences Bureau (MGB) said results of tests made on waters off the Lafayette mining site showed that cyanide levels there were within safe limits.

The investigation was commissioned by the provincial government of Sorsogon following complaints from fishermen that no one was buying their catch for fear of contamination.

City Mayor Sally Lee and Gov. Raul Lee met with the multiagency team before they set out to sea to gather water samples.

The team is composed of scientists and researchers from the Department of Science and Technology, UP National Science Research Institute, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Sorsogon multi-partite monitoring task force chaired by City Councilor Dave Duran.

Rey Juan, MGB Bicol regional director, said tests, made by the MGB on Rapu-Rapu waters in the vicinity of Lafayette's mining area, showed that the level of cyanide content was within the bureau standards.

He said this meant that Rapu-Rapu island's coastal waters have passed the government's cyanide standards although more tests are to be made to revalidate the findings.

The water samples were taken on Jan. 6 and Jan. 19.

The findings were reported by a joint team of the Environmental Management Bureau and the MGB at a meeting last Monday.

Albay Gov. Fernando Gonzales and officials of EMB, MGB, nongovernment organizations and Rogelio Corpus, representing the new management of the Rapu-Rapu project, were in the meeting.

Corpus said the new management of the company would meet all the environmental and safety requirements before resuming operations and is currently desilting ponds and creeks, building wetlands and expanding events and tailings dam.

The new management, headed by Carlos Dominguez, is also doing a technical audit to find out why the mine spills happened and what must be done to make sure they do not happen again, Corpus said. *Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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Girl, 5, killed in drug bust

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A five-year-old girl was accidentally killed in an anti-illegal drugs operation in Dasmariñas, Cavite on Wednesday, police said yesterday.

Senior Supt. Aaron Fidel, intelligence chief of the Calabarzon police, identified the victim as Janissa Bagul, a resident of Barangay H2, Dasmariñas town.

Fidel said police launched a drug buy-bust operation in Barangay H2, in Cavite, to arrest members of a drug syndicate.

He said two undercover policemen were able to buy 91 grams of suspected shabu from suspects Mike Tale and Pepito Soriano in a slum area in Barangay H2.

The two were arrested and pointed to other gang members in a house in the area.

Fidel said police were fired upon as they entered the house.

He said the girl was apparently caught in the crossfire and was fatally hit in the head.

Fidel said the victim was playing with other children a few meters from the house where the police operation took place. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Republic of the Philippines
Province of Zamboanga Sibugay
Municipality of Tungawan
Loan agreement # PH-P200

INVITATION TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education, has received an Official Development Assistance (ODA) loan from Japan Bank of International Cooperation (JBIC) in the amount of P1,749 million (Y7,210 million) towards the financing of the Secondary Education and Improvement Project (SEDIP) dated December 28, 1999. It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments for the new construction of the different school buildings located at the following schools, to wit:

Package No.	Name of School	Location	Building Type
01	Tungawan NHS - San Isidro Annex	Brgy. San Isidro, Tungawan	1-Storey 4-Classroom Building with toilet 1-Storey Library Building with Guidance & Faculty Room; 1-Storey Home Economics Building and 1-Water Supply System

Disbursement of the ODA loan by JBIC will be subject, in all respects, to the terms and conditions of the loan agreement, including the disbursement procedures and the "Guidelines for Procurement under "JBIC ODA Loans". No party other than the Department of Education shall derive any rights from the Loan Agreement or have any claims to loan proceeds. The above Loan Agreement will cover only a part of a project cost. As for the remaining portion, the agency will take appropriate measures for finance

JBIC requires that the bidders and Contractors, as well as DepED-SEDIP under contacts funded with JBIC-ODA Loans and other Japanese ODA, observe the highest standards of ethics during the procurement and execution of contracts. In pursuance of this policy, JBIC:

1 Will reject a proposal for award if it determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or fraudulent practices in competing for the contract in question;

2 Well recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with JBIC ODA loans if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt and fraudulent practices in competing for, or in executing, another contract funded financed by JBIC ODA loans or other Japanese ODA.

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) Registered contractors or joint venture contractors with PCAB license category Small B, General Building

Bidder may obtain further information and acquire the bidding documents from:

The Bids and Awards Committee
Municipality of Tungawan
Tel. Nos. 09215173452
Telefax No _____

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting February 10, 2006 until 5:00 p.m. of February 17, 2006 upon submission of a letter of intent to the above office and payment of a non-refundable fee of P4,000.00.

Pre-bid conference shall be conducted on February 20, 2006 at 2:00 p.m. to be held at Tungawan Municipal Hall.

Submission of bid together with all the documents required in the bid documents must be delivered to the aforesaid venue on March 6, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at Tungawan Municipal Hall. All bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of the bidders or their legally authorized representatives.

(Sgd.) Engr. DEMREL CAÑIZAR
Chairperson, BAC

(PDI - Jan 27 & Feb 3, 2006)

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By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

ANGELES CITY—LAWYER ESTELITO MENdoza, former solicitor general and Pampanga governor, for the first time spoke out against the alleged scam in the capitol's collection of taxes from Mt. Pinatubo's sand, calling this an "example of graft so brazenly and shamelessly committed."

Mendoza, 75, one of the country's top legal luminaries who held various posts during the Marcos regime, gave the scathing remarks during the opening of the joint cultural and historical conference of Pampanga and Cavite at the Holy Angel University here on Tuesday.

"Here in Pampanga, it is not artifacts that are being dug. It is sand that is quarried. But this is something we should be ashamed of because I have not seen an example of graft so brazenly and shamelessly committed and only a few are crying against it," he told some 200 teachers, writers and researchers.

This was the first time that he made public his views on a controversy that has hounded the provincial government since 1998 or 12 years after he served his term.

Mendoza delved into the quarry problem after he pointed out that the conference, which ended Wednesday, was a way to "see the value of the past to the present." Former Prime Minister Cesar Virata, a Caviteño, also attended the conference.

"We should now ignite a feeling of guilt at our indifference and beyond that, our lack of will and courage to confront and stop the erosion of moral values in our society, the corruption in our government and the abdication of our sovereign will to govern as constituted elements of what we claim a democratic republic," Mendoza said.

"We are unworthy of the legacy," he said, referring to the contributions of Kapampangans who served the cause of freedom and independence from Spanish and American colonizers.

In his speech, Mendoza did not name the officials involved in the alleged quarry collection irregularities. He, however, talked on the discrepancies he observed in the number of truckloads of sand hauled daily and the actual revenues generated by the capitol.

The current chair of the provincial quarry task force is Gov. Mark Lapid, son of Mendoza's former political protégé at the Nationalist People's Coalition, former governor and now Sen. Manuel "Lito" Lapid. Mendoza and former President Joseph Estrada first fielded the elder Lapid, then an actor, as NPC vice governor in 1992 and as governor in 1995 to trounce Lakas candidates.

The elder Lapid was charged with graft in 1998 in connection with illegal quarry fees. The charge was dismissed before the May 2004 elections after the office of the Ombudsman withdrew the information.

Under President Macapagal-Arroyo, Lapid reclaimed for the capitol its collection work that Estrada earlier transferred to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

According to Mendoza, about 3,000 to 4,000 truckloads of sand are extracted from the province and these, at a tax of P300 per truck, should be enough to raise P900,000 to P1.2 million daily.

"Only a small amount is being remitted," he said, referring to the P10 million collected toward the end of the elder Lapid's term in 2004 and almost P40 million in 2005.

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao estimated that capitol lost a minimum of P176 million last year due to graft.

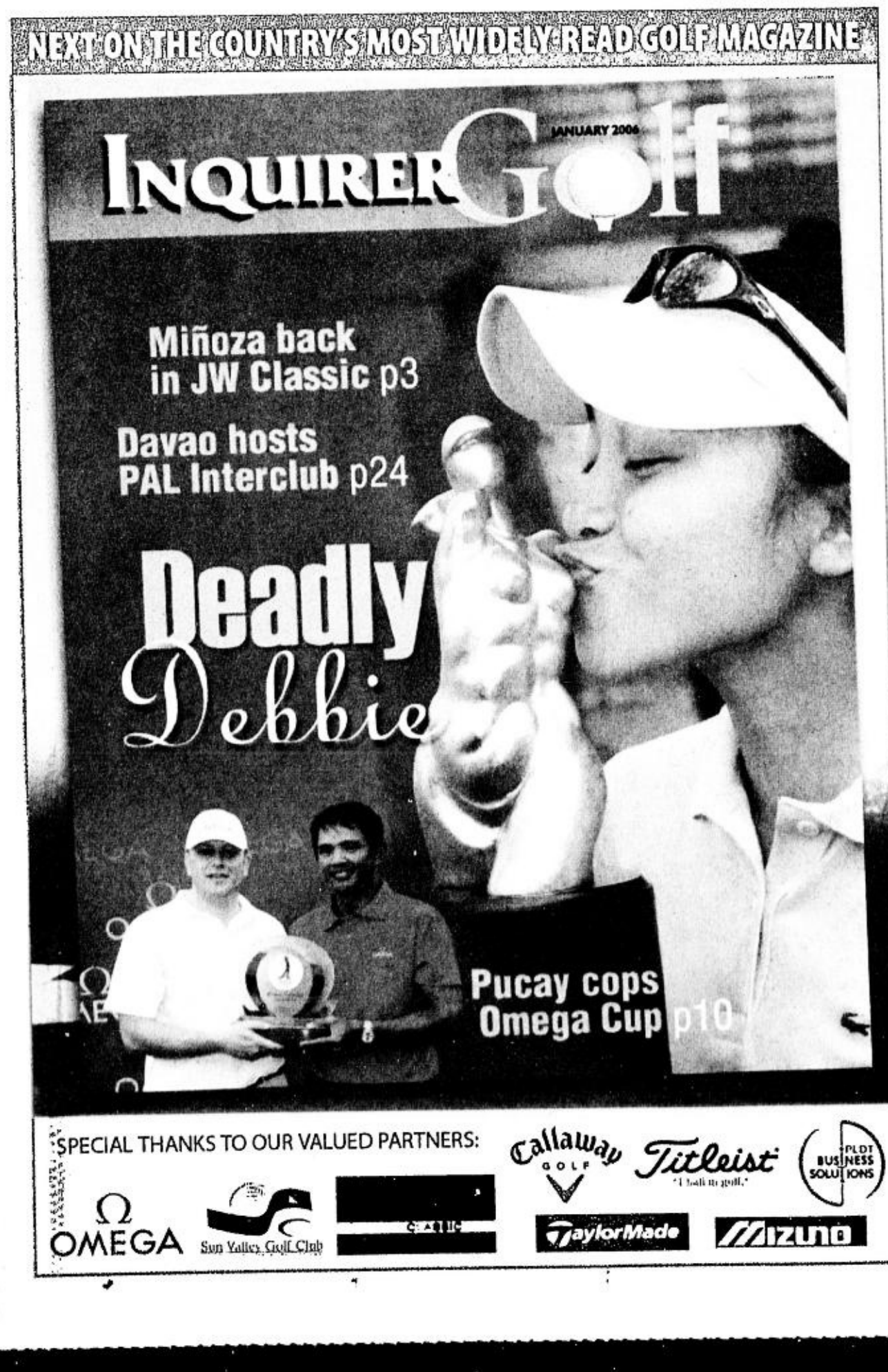
Mendoza said income from the quarry industry, which enjoyed a boom following the construction frenzy after Mt. Pinatubo's 1991 eruptions—the same disaster that spewed a huge volume of sand—could help poor people build homes and be provided with basic social services.

"This is a big problem," Mendoza said.

He also rued the fact that the so-called SOPs, actually a term for standard operating procedures but now represents the shares of grafters in public works projects, had ballooned to 50 percent from 10 percent.

"What we need is a just and clean kind of governance," he said.

VILLAGERS trek through wet lahar, that had dried since Pinatubo's eruption and lahar flows and have become a rich source of sand for what was described as a corruption-ridden quarrying industry in Pampanga. PDI PHOTO



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Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines
National Transmission Corporation

PRINTING OF TRANSCO DISPATCH, ANNUAL REPORT, AND WALL & DESK CALENDARS

Ref. No. PB060119-PP0003

1. The *NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION Head Office Region* (TRANSCO-HO) through the *2006 Corporate Budget approved by the TransCo Board* intends to apply the sum of Php 3,350,000.00 (Item 1 : Php 720,000.00 / Item 2: Php 380,000.00 / Item 3 : Php 2,550,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for *PR No. CCD-06-000014269/Printing of TransCo 2006 Dispatch (Item 1), 2005 Annual Report (Item 2) and 2007 Desk & Wall Calendars (Item 3).* Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The *TRANSCO-HO* now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the *Printing of TransCo 2006 Dispatch, 2005 Annual Report and 2007 Desk & Wall Calendars.* Delivery of the GOODS is required as follows. *Item 1: five (5) working days after approval of final proof / Item 2 : ten (10) working days after approval of final proof / Item 3 : fifteen (15) working days after approval of final proof.* The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure
4. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from *January 26, 2006 to February 22, 2006* at the address below and upon payment of a non refundable fee in the amount of *Php 1,000.00*. The method of payment will be *Cash*. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
5. The *TRANSCO-HO* will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *February 09, 2006/3:30 P.M.* at *the address below*
6. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before *February 23, 2006/10:00 A.M.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following forms and amount or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted

	FORM OF SECURITY	AMOUNT
1	Cash, certified check, cashier's check, manager's check, bank draft or irrevocable letter of credit (1% of ABC)	Item 1 : Php7,200.00 Item 2 : Php3,800.00 Item 3 : Php22,500.00 Total : Php33,500.00
2	Bank Guarantee (1.5% of ABC)	Item 1 : Php10,800.00 Item 2 : Php5,700.00 Item 3 : Php33,750.00 Total : Php50,250.00
3.	Surety Bond (2.5% of ABC)	Item 1 : Php18,000.00 Item 2 : Php9,500.00 Item 3 : Php56,250.00 Total : Php83,750.00
4.	Foreign Government Guarantee (100% of ABC)	Item 1 : Php720,000.00 Item 2 : Php380,000.00 Item 3 : Php2,250,000.00 Total : Php3,350,000.00

7. Bid opening shall be on *February 23, 2006/10:00 A.M.* at the *Admin Conference Room same address below*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
8. *The National Transmission Corporation* reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

National Transmission Corporation, Head Office Region
Mr. Armando N. Ochoa, BAC Chairman
MMD Office, Ground Floor, TransCo Main Bldg
Power Center, Quezon Avenue corner BIR Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel No. (632) 9812207 / Fax No. (632) 9228432
Website: www.transco.ph

(Sgd.) ARMANDO N. OCHOA
Chairman, Bids & Awards Committee

(PDI - January 27 & February 2, 2006)

NLEx execs to probe cause of smashups

By Tonette Orejas
PDI C. Luzon Desk

CITY OF SAN FERnando—The Manila North Tollways Corp. on Thursday began its investigation of the causes of three smashups at the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) on Wednesday.

Three people, including the wife of Mayor Jeffrey Khonghun of Subic, Zambales, were killed and 16 others were injured.

Marlene Ochoa, vice president of the MNTC, said consulting engineers and the operator, the Tollways Management Corp., are doing separate investigations of the series of smashups involving at least seven vehicles traversing the southbound lanes of the Pulilan-Sta. Rita segment starting at 2:30 p.m.

Initially, the traffic control center said that Tropical Depression Agaton's strong rains made the road slippery.

"We will inform the public as soon as we're done (with the probe)," Ochoa said. She did not give a deadline.

Ochoa said, however, that the 84-km highway, fully rehabilitated in February 2005 at a cost of P18.5 billion, has "no design problem."

"It was designed for safety," she said, adding that the contractor, the Leighton International, had built quality roads worldwide.

Pacquiao, celebrities eyed for Cha-cha drive

From page A1

constitutional reform?

"But first things first," said Mayor Edward Hagedorn of Puerto Princesa City. Are Pacquiao and other pop icons for Charter change? Is political change among their concerns?

This is "worth exploring," said Hagedorn, chair of the 117-member League of Cities of the Philippines.

But celebrities and noncelebrities alike are "welcome to take part in this nationwide endeavor called 'a people's initiative.'"

"Every person counts and has a responsible role to play in this worthy cause," said Hagedorn, a staunch ally of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The LCP has joined other groups, like the 79-member League of Provinces of the Philippines and the 1,500-strong League of Municipalities of the Philippines, in advocating for Charter change.

Hagedorn vowed to "do my part in pushing for the people's initiative and hopefully put the parliamentary system in place, which at this point in the nation's history makes perfect sense."

5M signatures needed

Supporters of the people's initiative, an offshoot of the 1986 People Power revolution, are required to gather at least 5 million signatures or 12 percent of the total number of registered voters nationwide to do away with next year's elections and turn Congress into a parliament after a plebiscite.

The 1.7-million-strong Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), the umbrella organization of local government officials, is spearheading moves to amend the 1987 Constitution.

"Everybody's welcome. As much as possible, all sectors of society should be represented in this new front of popular participation," said Hagedorn, who also runs the government's campaign against "jueteng"—an illegal numbers game.

Hagedorn noted that "by empowering the people, the mistakes of the past will not be repeated."

In an interview, Hagedorn stressed "it is the Filipino people through the so-called 'people's initiative' who should decide on constitutional reform, instead of a chosen few from the corridors of power."

Dangerous times

"We're living in dangerous times. At no time is the political atmosphere more volatile and hostile than it is now. And it has certainly affecting the economy. The times call for some drastic, if not emergency, measures," warned Hagedorn.

Amid all the tension, he said, is the "clamor for Charter change."

"Constitutional reform is long overdue. The nation should decide on Charter change now," Hagedorn emphasized.

Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, also the Ulap spokesperson, earlier told media that local government units through the umbrella group would start gathering signatures for the Charter change initiative.

Evardone said an overwhelming majority of LGUs favored the recommendations by the Consultative Commission, including canceling the 2007 elections to pave the way for the adoption of the parliamentary system in 2010.

SWS survey

Last month, a Social Weather Stations poll showed that Filipinos were now "neutral" on the proposed shift to the parliamentary system after showing reluctance in the past.

The survey, conducted from Nov. 27 to Dec. 4 last year covering 1,200 respondents nationwide, revealed that 32 percent of Filipinos approved of having the head of government elected by parliamentarians while 32 percent disapproved and 30 percent were undecided.

In a statement, SWS said the split-opinion result was a "marked change from many previous SWS polls which showed a great reluctance of Filipino voters to give up the tradition of voting directly for the President."

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Use of P100-M fund probed

From page A1

drawn from the P35 billion in Swiss bank deposits of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos that the government got hold of in 2004, according to Senate President Franklin Drilon.

Budget officials said P27 billion of the P35 billion was almost gone. *(See related story on Page 1.)*

On top of fertilizer fund

"It's clear that part of the Marcos funds was used during the elections, given the timing," Drilon said Wednesday night. "It was released on May 3, 2004. These were included in the farm inputs of the GMA program, which was used as part of the fertilizer fund."

Drilon pointed out that the P98.8 million was "on top" of the controversial P728 million in fertilizer funds released to lawmakers and local government officials in the run-up to the elections.

The man behind the release of the fertilizer fund is former Agriculture Secretary Jocelyn 'Jocjoc' Bolante, whose arrest has been ordered by the Senate. The Senate cited Bolante in contempt for failing to testify in the hearings of its agriculture and food committee on the alleged misuse of the fund.

Bolante is still out of the country, the Bureau of Immigration said yesterday.

Drilon also noted that, contrary to usual practice, both the Special Allotment Release Order (Saro) and the Notice of Cash Allocation (NCA) for the funds were released on the same day—April 28, 2004.

"We will continue to investigate this and this will be a topic of the fertilizer fund investigation," he said.

PARC resolution

The use of P544 million in Marcos funds for the GMA rice program was approved in a resolution by the executive committee of the Presidential Agrarian Reform Council. The council is headed by Ms Arroyo.

The resolution justified the use of Marcos funds, saying that "majority of the rice farmers who will be participating in the hybrid rice production technology are also farmer-beneficiaries under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program."

Under the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law of 1988, all ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses and their cronies that the government recovers should go to land reform.

The P544 million was released from the Marcos funds to the Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR) for the implementation of the GMA program in coordination with the agriculture department.

Former Agriculture Secretary Luis "Cito" Lorenzo Jr. and Agrarian Reform Secretary Jose Mari Ponce had entered into a memorandum of agreement (MOA) on March 8, 2004 to implement the GMA hybrid rice program, which aimed to promote hybrid rice technology in irrigated agrarian reform areas and provide seed assistance to agrarian reform beneficiaries.

Under the MOA, the DA would use the P544 million to "procure hybrid seeds from DA-accredited seed growers/seed companies" and "distribute the hybrid seeds to qualified farmer-beneficiaries included in the master list jointly prepared by the DA and the DAR.

Three allotments

Drilon said the P544 million in GMA rice funds was broken down into three allotments—P394 million for the hybrid rice program at the Philippine Rice Research Institute, P50 million for farm-to-market roads, and P100 million for "farm inputs and implements."

A one-page status of disbursement report prepared by DA senior bookkeeper Edithalyn Dantes showed that, as of Nov. 30, 2005, a total of P98.8 million had been released to 13 DA-RFUs.

Cagayan de Oro City got P24.5 million; San Fernando, La Union (P10 million); San Fernando, Pampanga (P9 million); Cebu City (P9 million); Baguio City (P7.8 million); Butuan and Cotabato cities (P7.5 million each); Zamboanga City (P6 million); Davao and Tacloban cities (P3 million each), and Tuguegarao, Cagayan (P1.5 million).

"DA-RFU IV-A, Diliman, Quezon City Lone District, Antipolo City" received P3 million, while Iloilo City got P6.5 million, the disbursement report said.

"There are releases to cities—Diliman (Quezon City) and Iloilo. I don't know what they fertilized there," Drilon said.

Gov't asked to allot ₱10B for martial law victims

From page A1

lion and these were sponsored by Malacañang. So why is the DBM saying that there's only P8-billion [for the victims]?" the senator said.

Arroyo, chair of the Senate committee on justice and human rights, said he had asked Teves and Neri "to tell the President to restore the P2 billion so that there would be P10 billion as stated in the administration measures."

Special fund

He said that while the P8 billion was supposedly intact since it was considered a "special fund" and "won't be used for any other purpose," there was a need to create a trust fund to protect the P10 billion for the victims.

Arroyo also urged the House to pass its bill so the Senate could pass its version.

"They should now schedule it for full debates and pass it. It is an administration measure and, like it or not, is a priority measure," he said.

The bills seek to amend the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Law (CARL) of 1988, which requires that all ill-gotten wealth recovered from the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos and his cronies go to land reform.

The human rights victims cannot touch the P8 billion or P10 billion unless the CARL is amended.

Depleted

Of the P35 billion in Marcos Swiss bank deposits that the government got hold of in 2004, P27 billion was set aside for land reform. Budget officials said that only P5 billion of the P27 billion remained and that the amount would be completely used up this year.

Arroyo and Senate President Franklin Drilon said the Senate would investigate how the Marcos ill-gotten wealth was disposed of by the administration.

The Bantay Marcos Wealth and Coco Levy coalition (BMW-CL) said the admission of DBM Director Nora Oliveros that only P5 billion of the Marcos funds remained for land reform confirmed the suspicion of many farmers that the money was utilized for purposes other than land acquisition.

Since early last year, various farmers' organizations under BMW-CL had called for a congressional inquiry into the matter.

Alarming

"What is even more alarming was the accelerated rate in which the money was spent. In a letter to the House oversight committee chair, Rep. Danilo Suarez, on March 10, 2005, for instance, National Treasurer Omar T. Cruz stated that the Marcos funds still had a balance of P26,189,575,871," the group said in a statement.

"(I)t is high time, not only to continue the hearings in the Senate but more importantly, to file criminal charges against those responsible and bring these government scalawags to justice," BMW-CL said.

"Lest the money acquired by the Marcoses be stolen a second time around," the group said.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr. said government officials who misused the confiscated Marcos ill-gotten wealth should be charged in court, noting that the funds were depleted in a span of only two years.

"They were obviously misused by the administration. Persons responsible should be punished and jailed for thievery," he said.

Davide: No politics, I just want to help

From page A1

preservation and promotion of our democratic institutions and the right to vote of the people and recognition of the sanctity of the ballot."

In Manila, Sen. Joker Arroyo yesterday said the Commission on Elections could not modernize the country's elections until its chair, Benjamin Abalos Sr., and the other commissioners implicated in the voided MegaPacific computerization deal resigned.

"If they continue in their job, we cannot have an automated election because the Supreme Court said that for so long as you guys are there, you cannot have anything to do with automated elections," Arroyo, chair of the Senate blue ribbon committee, said in a press conference.

"They'll have to get out, otherwise, there will never, never be automated elections. In other words, the Supreme Court had handcuffed the incumbent commissioners."

Davide accepted the President's appointment during the Council of State meeting held in Malacañang on Tuesday night.

60-day work period

He said he was confident that he would be able to submit the recommendations for electoral reforms even before the 60-day period given by Ms Arroyo to do so expires.

"I found it a very tremendous challenge because I was once a Comelec chair and I have witnessed the basic problems involving our electoral system," Davide said.

He said he was not able to finish his term because he headed the presidential fact-finding commission that looked into the coup attempts against the Aquino administration.

"I found this to be an opportunity to pursue further the reforms I initiated during that time so that I could help improve the system and to ensure that our political exercise ... [will] be duly honest, free, orderly, peaceful and credible," he said.

Davide said he had proposed laws on electoral reforms when he was a member of the Interim Batasang Pambansa during the Marcos regime in the late 1970s, and that he would reexamine his proposals in his current position.

Davide was also a member of the 1971 Constitutional Convention and the 1986 Constitutional Commission.

Yesterday, he appealed to all sectors, including religious groups, the National Citizens' Movement for Free Elections and even politicians, to submit their electoral reform proposals as soon as possible so that he could study them.

"Electoral reforms are urgently needed now in our country and I hope they have the reform proposals and share what they have to me by communicating directly to me," Davide said.

Crucial in a democracy

"For the rest of our people, let's pray that I will be able to submit the reforms needed for our electoral system because the election is truly crucial in a functioning democracy," he said.

Arroyo said the Supreme Court stated in its ruling voiding the computerization contract that Abalos and the other Comelec officials signed with MegaPacific that the commissioners should "refrain from implementing any other contract or agreement entered into with regard to the (automated election) project."

On Wednesday, Abalos, together with India's chief election commissioner, B.B. Tandon, presented voting and counting machines from India that the Comelec wants to use for Philippine elections.

But Arroyo said the Comelec commissioners were "estopped" by the Supreme Court decision from advocating automated elections or from having anything to do with it "because of their past record."

Jeopardy

He noted that the Senate had also adopted the blue ribbon committee report, saying that the Comelec commissioners' illegal actions in the MegaPacific deal had put in jeopardy the holding of credible elections in the country.

"In other words, since the Comelec cannot conduct a clean, and honest bidding and procurement, how can it be expected to conduct clean and honest elections?" Arroyo said. *With a report by Philip C. Tubeza in Manila*

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Pray, Silent Majority movement tells Filipinos

From page A1

a prayer gathering on Monday at the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City, to "pray for our deliverance from the social evils we suffer, the division we experience, the misery we live in."

The movement was formed "because many people are confused," its main convenor, Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, said at a press conference yesterday in Intramuros.

"Perhaps it's time we allowed God to move. Let us let Him lead and guide all of us to where our country should go," Cruz said.

In his open invitation, the archbishop wrote: "When a country is at a loss, it has no option but to have recourse to the good Lord for direction.

"When people can no longer depend on their fellowmen, they have no choice but to repose their hope in the Almighty."

According to Cruz, the Silent Majority Prayer Movement does not intend to seek a particular solution to the political impasse brought about by lingering questions on the legitimacy of the Macapagal-Arroyo presidency.

LET'S STORM heaven with prayers, say Silent Majority Prayer Movement members during a press conference in Intramuros, Manila, Thursday. Some of the movement's leaders are, from left, Oscar Orbos, Sonny de los Reyes, Bishop Oscar Cruz, Mashur Bin-Ghalib Jundam and Sister Felicidad Dacayan. REM ZAMORA

Neither is it meant to seek Ms Arroyo's ouster even if some of its supporters—among them Fr. Robert Reyes, recently removed from his parish in Cubao, Quezon City, and television personality Oscar Orbos, who was an executive secretary of then President Corazon Aquino—count among her critics.

"These people are not anti-Arroyo. They are antifraud, anticorruption. They are against poverty, because poverty is something that can be avoided," Sonny de los Reyes, one of the convenors, said in the same press conference.

"Whoever violates truth and justice, you can expect this group to speak out," De los Reyes said.

But with both the President, who is known to be prayerful, and her critics imploring the heavens, whom will God listen to?

"That's why I don't want to be God," Cruz replied in jest. To be sure, he said, "God won't change society if people won't change, too."

"The person should also be honest about what he is praying for," the archbishop said.

Open to everyone

The movement, as well as the ecumenical gathering next week, is open to "whoever wants to pray for the country," Cruz said.

"It won't be a rally of flags," Reyes, popularly known as "the Running Priest," said.

"Each sector is requested to pray. It's a challenge because everybody loves to hit. I, too, love to hit. But it doesn't mean that we don't know how to pray," he said.

The ecumenical gathering on Monday will be held at UP's Sunken Garden from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m. To conclude the event, organizers hope that a one-minute silent prayer will sweep across the country.

To be banned from the gathering are banners displaying political or ideological affiliations, slogans that might disturb "the solemnity of our prayer and the harmony of the gathering," and any "sentiment of hatred and violence that may prevent us from getting closer to God," the movement said.

'Soldier's Prayer'

And speaking of prayer, let's hear it from the mutineers.

After ousted President Joseph Estrada, now it's the Magdalo group imploring the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines.

The group of soldiers who mounted the failed Oakwood mutiny of July 2003 has written the bishops, seeking support for their "fight for justice and truth," a highly reliable source from the mutineers' camp told the INQUIRER yesterday.

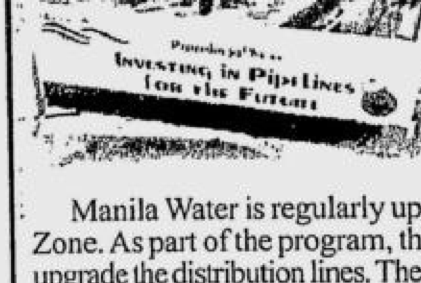
"They ventilated their views, saying that what they're doing is correct, at the same time seeking guidance from the bishops," said the source who asked not to be named because he was not authorized to speak.

The letter, tentatively titled "A Soldier's Prayer," was prepared on Tuesday and is supposed to be read by a group representing the soldiers during the Monday gathering of the Silent Majority Prayer Movement, the source said.

"The soldiers' prayer is for truth and justice to prevail," he said. "They're asking the bishops to support them in their fight for truth and justice. They also want spiritual guidance."

The CBCP media office refused to confirm or deny having received the letter of the Magdalo group.

Asked to comment, Caloocan Bishop Deogracias Iñiguez said many people had been seeking the help of the CBCP.



Manila Water

Water interruption in portions of Taytay and Makati needed to upgrade facilities

Manila Water is regularly upgrading its facilities to improve the distribution of water in the East Zone. As part of the program, the interconnection of a line and installation of a valve will be done to upgrade the distribution lines. The first interruption will affect portions of Taytay due to the interconnection work along Bgy. San Juan. The cutoff will start 10:00 p.m., Saturday, January 28, up to 4:00 a.m., January 29 and will affect the whole of Barangay San Juan.

Meanwhile, the second interruption will occur in portions of Makati due to the installation of a large valve along EDSA. The interruption will start 10:00 pm, Saturday, February 4, up to 1:00 am, February 5 and will affect the following areas: Pitogo, South Cembo, Pinagkaisahan, Guadalupe Nuevo, Guad. Viejo, Bel Air 1-4, Urdaneta Village, Salcedo Village, Legaspi Village, San Lorenzo, Dasmariñas, Kayamanan, Ecology Village, portions of Forbes Park, Pio del Pilar, San Antonio, Sta. Cruz, San Miguel Village, Poblacion and Makati Central Business District.

Manila Water Company advises all residents of the said areas to store enough water prior to the scheduled interruptions to avoid inconvenience.

For the latest update, please call our Customer Call Center Hotline at 1627.

We don't just lay pipes, we improve lives.

(PDI - Jan 27 2006)

MMDA war on huge ad boards resumes

By Tarra V. Quismundo

THE BIGGER AND MORE COLORFUL THE billboard is, the more likely it is to divert your attention from the road.

For this reason, billboards lined up alongside major thoroughfares in the metropolis have made it to the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA)'s list of emerging road safety concerns this year.

The MMDA has long considered advertising billboards as "paid hazards."

"They compete with traffic signs and cause obstruction on the roadway," said MMDA Traffic Operations Center Executive Director Angelito Vergel de Dios.

Powerless

MMDA Deputy Chair Cesar Lacuna, however, admitted they cannot do anything about the problem of huge billboards as it is the local government who issues permits to ad firms.

"We are trying our best to remove billboards in public areas, because we have been receiving lots of complaints," said Lacuna. "We need a law regulating the installation of billboards along major roads."

Last year, Sen. Miriam Santiago filed Senate Bill 1714, or the Anti Billboard Blight Act, which sought to put restrictions on the installation of ad billboards in public areas. The bill, however, is still pending in the Senate.

There had been several incidents of accidents caused by billboards in previous years. Some of these involved billboards which fell on parked cars because of strong winds.

Last year, a billboard fell on a cable wire of the Metro Rail Transit, disrupting railway operations for about eight hours.

The MMDA has also branded as hazardous "advertisement trucks," or small flatbed trucks which carry huge billboards and go around the metropolis.

The trucks can hold up traffic as they run at a slow pace to get as much exposure as possible, Vergel de Dios had said in a previous interview.

Teen gang kills high school student

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT WAS killed by a gang of teenagers in Pandacan, Manila, shortly after midnight yesterday.

Willie Cabarle, 18, of 1651 Kahilum III, Pandacan, Manila, died of at least seven stab wounds after being taken to the Philippine General Hospital, according to PO2 Rommel del Rosario of the Manila Police District Homicide Section.

Follow-up operations conducted by the police early yesterday morning led to the arrest of suspects Maloni Grimaldo, 19, of 1534 Interior St., Paco, Manila, and his cousin who is a minor, Del Rosario said.

Five more suspects—Ariel Romero, Warren Rodregueza, JR Pinopio, Kent Rogent Carido, and Alexis Cayanan—all of 1534 Canonigo St., Paco, Manila, remain at large.

Investigation showed that the victim, a student of Manuel Roxas High School in Paco, walked a female classmate home with schoolmates John Clark Dimaandal and Richard Molina at around 12 midnight. When the group passed by the corner of P. Zamora Street and Quirino Avenue Extension in Pandacan, the suspects pounced on them. Dimaandal and Molina were able to flee but Cabarle was mauled and stabbed repeatedly by the suspects.

Coming home in style

From page A20

Manila City Hall. His entourage will pass through major roads in Manila and Quezon City, before culminating at the Dagonoy Market in Manila. Manila Police District director Chief Supt. Pedro Bulaong said 4,000 policemen will secure the route of the boxer's ticker-tape parade. Pacquiao is expected to attend the "Tribute to Pinoy Champions" later in the afternoon at the Rajah Sulayman Park in Malate.

METROBRIEFS

Makati to launch bird club

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

SIXTEEN doves would be released at 8 a.m. today to mark the launching of the Makati Bird Watchers' Club (MBWC) at the Makati Park and Garden in Barangay West Rembo. The club, organized by the city's Department of Environmental Services (DES), is expected to spearhead the implementation of an ordinance which declared Makati a bird sanctuary and penalizes the harming, trading and caging of winged creatures. "Our goal is to enjoin our citizens toward responsible appreciation of nature, to advance the protection and conservation of the environment through bird watching, and participate in local, national, and international bird conservation efforts," DES Parks and Green Division chief Moises Camacho said. To join the MBWC, one should be a Makati resident, at least 18 years old and above, with a genuine interest in birds. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

From flood-prone to flood-free

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

THE MALABON City government yesterday said work was continuing on nearly 60 infrastructure projects to minimize flooding in the flood-prone city. "Flooding which had inconvenienced residents for the longest time must be reduced or totally eradicated," Malabon City Mayor Canuto Oreta said. The city government has set aside P97 million for its "Brigada Kontra Baha" program. The money would be spent for 91 various projects aimed at minimizing flooding in the city. The projects include the repair of the city's river walls and floodgates along the Muzon-Dampalit Malabon River and the clearing of canals along Gen. Luna Street. Of the 91 projects, 34 have already been completed, Oreta added. *Nancy C. Carvajal*

Organic products at night market

NATURAL and Organic Way (NOW) will participate in Mandarin Oriental's Chinese New Year night market on Jan. 28, from 3 p.m. to 12 midnight, at the hotel parking lot. NOW, an advocate of locally-made all-natural and organic products, is headed by Dr. Nonoy Zuniga, president, and actor Juan Rodrigo, vice president for research and product development. Its products are available at the Deli-fresh Organic Restaurant in front of the Shangri-La Plaza Mall in Shaw Blvd.

SDK to hold grand reunion

THE SAMAHANG Demokratiko ng Kabataan (SDK) will hold its 35th anniversary grand reunion and commemoration of the Diliman Commune of 1971, and of SDK's one and only Congress in January 1971 at the UP Diliman campus on Feb. 4. Among the highlights of the event are an inter-faith service for Pastor "Sonny" Mesina and other activist-martyrs, a cultural program at the School of Labor Industrial Relations at 5 p.m., and fellowship activities. In cooperation with the UP Library, an exhibit on the Diliman Commune and youth activism will also be featured from Jan. 31 to Feb. 4. The SDK, together with the Kabataang Makabayan, played a leading role in the Diliman Commune, a week-long occupation of the UP Diliman campus against military intervention in the campus. For inquiries, call Jeepy Perez or Leti Licera at tel. no. 6877135 or at sadeka@yahoogroups.com.

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Friday, January 27, 2006

Watch Pinoy Power in America's Hottest Dance Challenge!

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:
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2. Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.

Channel	Programs
ABC 5	Winner TV Shopping / PBA / Sentro / PBA / Big News / So You Think You Can Dance / Real Stories
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema / Little Amy / Mr Bean / Naruto / Amazing Twins / Meteor Garden Season 2 / TV Patrol World / Gulong Ng Palad / Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit / Only You / Vietnam Rose / Forbidden Love / Kung Fu Fight Nights / Insider
AXN	Double Team / Worst Case Scenario / Lost / 24 / 30 Seconds To Fame / E Buzz / Blue Streak / The Cable Guy
Cartoon Network	Johnny Bravo / Dexter's Laboratory / Powerpuff Girls / Tom & Jerry Show / Baby Looney Tunes / Codename Kids Next Door / The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy / Power Rangers Wild Force / The Gransazers / Battle B-Daman / Energy Bomb / X-Men Evolution / Samurai Jack / Justice League / Static Shock / Power Rangers Wild Force / The Gransazers
Cinema One	Sinong Pipigil Sa Pagpatak Ng Ulan / Beautiful Life / Bulaklak Ng Maynila / Tasigo / Singsing Ni Lola
Cinemax	The Private Navy Of Sgt. O'Farrell / Forever Young / Sleepless In Seattle (8:15 PM) / Running Against Time / Cabin Fever / The Skulls III
CNN	Business International / World News / World Sport / Larry King Live / Business International / World News Asia / World News / World Sport / World News Asia / World News / World Sport
Discovery Channel	Extreme Engineering / Why Intelligence Fails / Beyond Tomorrow / More Than Human / Relics / American Chopper / Beyond Tomorrow / Mostly True Stories / Crime Night
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series / Totally Spies / Art Attack/Un-fabulous Bunny / Mickey Mouse and Friends / Lilo & Stitch / Sabrina The Animated Series / Totally Spies / Kim Possible / Mr Bean The Animated Series / That's So Raven / Wonderful World Of Disney / Mickey Mouse and Friends / Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers / Wonderful World Of Disney
ESPN	Pro Billiards 2005 Men's World Summit of Pool / Boxing Series Friday Night Fights / Sportscenter Asia / World Tennis Masters '05 / Pool/ Snooker Masters Cup 2005 / Pro Billiards 05 BCA Open 9-Ball C'Ships Finals / Sportscenter Asia
ETC	Entertainment Tonight / The Insider / Change of Heart / Elimidate / Blind Date / Fifth Wheel / Seinfeld / Ambush Makeover / Joan Of Arcadia / American Dreams 2 / Entertainment Tonight / The Insider / The Tonight Show With Jay Leno
EWTN	The Word Was Made Flesh / Angelus (3:15 PM) / The Donut Man / Angel Form / Suffering And The Love Of God / Rosary With Mother Angelica / Stations Of The Cross / EWTN Gallery / Super Saints / Life on The Rock Encore / Marriage Works In Christ / Defending Life / Daily Mass (SAP) Live / Angelus (10:15PM) / Holy Spirit In The Church / Either Comply And The Catechism Of The Catholic Church
Fox News	Hannity & Colmes / On The Record With Greta Van Susteren / The O'Reilly Factor / Your World With Neil Cavuto / Fox & Friends / Fox News Live
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako / Now and Forever / Date With Tiffany / Dragonball Z / Slam Dunk / Frog Prince / 24 Oras / Extra Challenge / Sugo / Etheria / Starstruck 3 / Jewel In The Palace / Bubble Gang / Saksi
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched IV / Judging Amy / To The Ends Of The Earth (3:50 PM) / Who's The Boss? II / Bewitched IV / The Nanny / Strong Medicine / Judging Amy / Midsomer Murders: Dark Autumn / Doc Martin (10:35PM) / Strong Medicine (11:25PM)
HBO	Iron Jawed Angels / Harriet The Spy (5:15 PM) / Consequence / Something's Gotta Give / Criminal
IBC 13	EZ Shop / Home Shopping Network / IBC Express Balita / Manny Pacquiao Sports Idol / Home Shopping Network / ME TV / Outrageous / Chik Factor / The Score / IBC News Tonite / Home Shopping Network
JackTV	Primetime Glick / The Late Show David Letterman / Jack In The Box / Mucha Lucha! / Beat The Geeks / Mad TV / That 70s Show / Arrested Development / The Late Show David Letterman / The Late Show David Letterman / Premium Blend / Reno 911 / Insomniac W/ Dave Attell
Lifestyle Network	Country Style / Interiors By Design / Decorating With Style / Decorating Cents / Molto Mario / Sweet Dreams / 30 Minute Meals / Bill Boggs Corner / Unwrapped / Ming's Quest / Intimate Portrait / Behind The Velvet Ropes / Life & Style / Guess Who's Coming To Decorate / Iron Chef America
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits / MTV Live / MTV Hits / Trippin / Pop Inc / MTV Hits / Aeon Flux / Get Hitch'd / Get Spotted / Diyes / MTV Hits / Trippin / MTV Hits / VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Rock MYX / My MYX / Mellow MYX / Urban MYX / Take 5 / OPM MYX / MYX Firsts / Star MYX / MYXiLOG / Pop MYX / MYX Daily Top Ten / Club MYX / MYX Versions / Urban MYX / My MYX / MYX Backtrax / OPM MYX
National Geographic	New Year Special / Castro / Top 5 / Wow! / About Asia / Nat Geographic Specials / Predators At War 1&2
NBN	Value Vision / Value Vision / Teledyaryo / Divas Ko, Mahal Mo Ba Sila? / GSIS Member's Hour / Ting ng Bayan (Live) / Teledyaryo / Kamao / Bantay OCW With Susan K
Nickelodeon	Blue's Clues / Rugrats / Hey Arnold! / My Life As A Teenage Robot / The Adventures of Jimmy Neutron / SpongeBob SquarePants / The Fairly Odd Parents / All That / Naturally Sadie / Romeo / Drake & Josh / The Fairly Odd Parents / All Grown Up / As Told By Ginger / Rocket Power / ChalkZone / The Wild Thornberrys / The Angry Beavers / The Brothers Garcia
PBO	Paano Ba Ang Magmahal / Hopeless Salvage / Nagmumurang Kamatis / Dubbed Movie / Mahal Kita Final Answer
Qtv	Bodyguard / Striker Hungry Heart / The Prince Of Tennis / MMS (My Music Station) / Moms / Love At Aegean Sea / Hoteller / All In / Laugh To Laugh Ang Kulit / Ganda Ng Lola Ko / News On Q / Love Life / MINT (Music Interactive)
RPN 9	TV Shopping / Defenders Of The Earth / Hey Arnold! / Krusada Kontra Krimen / As Told By Ginger / Entertainment Tonight / The Insider / WWE Smackdown / Cold Case / Medium / Newswatch Now / TV Giants On Friday
SBN 21	New Life TV Shopping / Winner TV Shopping / Oras Ng Himala / Oras ng [illegible] / Shepherd's Voice / SBN Music Video
Solar Sports	Denmark Open Men's Doubles Finals / Copenhagen Masters 2005 / Swatch FIVB World Tour '05 Durban Women's Finals / THE BATTLE: Erik Morales vs Manny Pacquiao - II / Sportsdesk / Greatest Games Mavericks vs Jazz G5 '01 1st Rnd
Sports Plus	World Game / ACC Basketball Villanova @ Duke / Celebrity Poker Tournament 3 / [illegible] / Xotic Xtreme / Inside the PGA / Golf Today / Buick Invitational Day 1
Star Movies	Dogma (2:50 PM) / All The Pretty Horses / Home Alone 3 (7:15 PM) / The Glass House / Nine Lives (10:40PM)
Star World	The Bold & The Beautiful / Hollywood Squares / Whose Line Is It Anyway? / Angel / The Simpsons / Malcolm In The Middle / Star News Asia / Friends / TNA Wrestling / The Collector (Series 3) / NYPD Blue / Friends / [illegible]
Studio 23	Rave / The Batman / Justice League Unlimited / Wazzup Wazzup / Survivor Guatemala / Barkada Nights / News Central / Oprah / Just Shoot Me

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Las Piñas factories under tight watch

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE LAS PIÑAS GOVERNMENT has ordered a crackdown on industrial companies operating in residential areas, a day after a fire razed a chemicals warehouse in one of the many subdivisions in the city.

Mayor Imelda Aguilar pooled manpower from the Business Permit and Licensing Office (BPLO), the City Planning Office, the Fire and Engineering Departments and the Health and Sanitation Office to form a task force that would go after establishments or factories illegally operating in subdivisions, said Jimmy Castillano, city public information head. The move was intended to protect the health and welfare of residents, Castillano added.

The task force would make sure that no chemicals factories operated in residential zones. It would also keep a tight watch on some 20 warehouses in the city, Castillano said.

On Wednesday morning, a fire broke out in the warehouse of Rich Chemical Enterprise, a company engaged in the manufacture and refilling of paint thinner and muriatic acid, located at T.S. Cruz Subdivision, Barangay Almanza Uno. Although the fire was contained in the warehouse compound, it sent many nearby residents in a panic. City fire marshal Senior Insp. Robert Pacis declared the fire under control yesterday or 26 hours after the blaze started.

City officials discovered yesterday that the company, owned by Filipino-Chinese businessman Po Yeng Ong, had declared it was only engaged in trading when it applied for a business permit.

"We had no way of finding out that the company was handling chemicals because they only said they were involved in trading," said Castillano.

The company was not granted a permit to operate in the subdivision after complaints from residents reached the local government. People living near the warehouse had claimed the company emitted hazardous and foul fumes. "Many residents here have experienced vomiting when they inhale smoke coming from the warehouse," said a resident who requested anonymity.

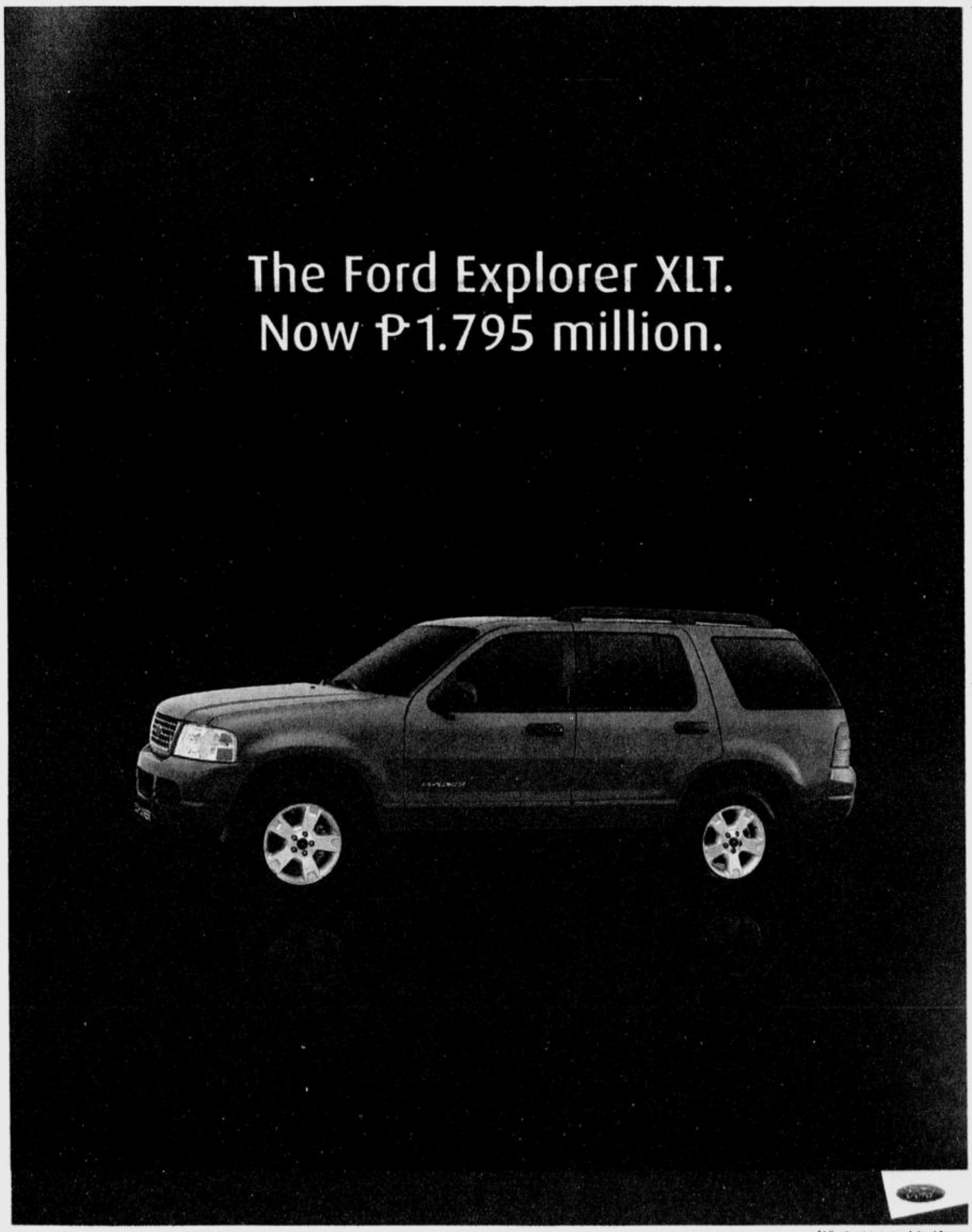
The company, however, was able to secure permits from the homeowners' association and the barangay in 2003, Castillano said. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources had also issued the company an environmental clearance certificate.

"Since the owners were able to comply with the requirements, our BPLO could not hold their permit," he added.

Although there had been 44 structural fire incidents in 2005, Pacis said the fire the other day was the first chemical-related incident in three years. "The last time a fire of this nature happened was in 2003, involving a warehouse of paint thinner on Barangay Manuyo Dos," he said.

No one will be spared from the investigation of the latest fire, including barangay officials and the homeowners' association, Aguilar said. "I appeal to everyone's sense of responsibility because this involves the safety of city residents," the mayor added.

(Before running this ad, the publication investigated if this was for real.)



Car thieves back in QC

By DJ Yap

AFTER WEEKS OF LYing low, car thieves struck again in Quezon City when four men took at gunpoint a businessman's sedan before midnight Wednesday.

On board his white Honda Accord (plate number ZBN 393), Peter Ong was about to enter his home at 218 Apo St., Barangay Maharlika, at 11:45 p.m. when he was stopped by a Toyota Altis without any license plates, police said.

Four unidentified men wielding long firearms alighted from the Altis, got into his vehicle, threw him out and sped away.

The case has been turned over to the Quezon City Police District anti-car theft unit for investigation, a La Loma Police Station desk officer said.

Coming home in style

By Margaux Ortiz, and Luige del Puerto

CLOSE TO 5,000 POlicemen will be deployed throughout the metropolis to ensure that everything goes smoothly for boxing champion Manny Pacquiao's homecoming today.

From the Ninoy Aquino International Airport where he is expected to arrive from the United States at around 4:30 a.m., about a dozen policemen will escort Pacquiao to the Hyatt Hotel in Manila where he will rest for a few hours.

"We are treating him like a VIP indeed. We are giving our hero a red carpet welcome," said Chief Supt. Wilfredo Garcia, head of the Southern Police District which has been tasked to secure the boxer upon his arrival in the country.

After a meeting with President Macapagal-Arroyo at Malacañang, Pacquiao will begin his victory motorcade at around 10:30 a.m., starting from the

COMING/ A19

TENNIS: 2006 Australian Open; 12 noon and 4:30 p.m. (r-10:30 p.m.); STAR Sports – Check out the women's doubles finals, mixed doubles semifinals and men's singles semifinals down under.

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

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EO 441 BACKLASH

Sports under docs crazy–NSAs

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NATIONAL Sports associations are up in arms against the Executive Order that would relegate the Philippine Sports Commission as a mere "bureau" under the Department of Health.

Branding it as a "bad move" and downright "crazy," the NSAs —the direct partners of the PSC in sports development—lamented the unexpected shift which would essentially overhaul the training and development of the national athletes.

Aquatics president Mark Joseph, whose association contributed nine gold medals to the smashing success of 23rd Southeast Asian Games, wondered whether the move was "a reward for winning the overall championships in the last SEA Games."

"Crazy is the way to describe it," said Joseph. "The Senate first approved P28 million for the PSC budget in 2006 (which was a fraction of what the agency used to receive), then they might as well put all our athletes into the mental hospital."

The move was puzzling, according to bowling chief and Philippine Olympic Committee secretary general Steve Hontiveros.

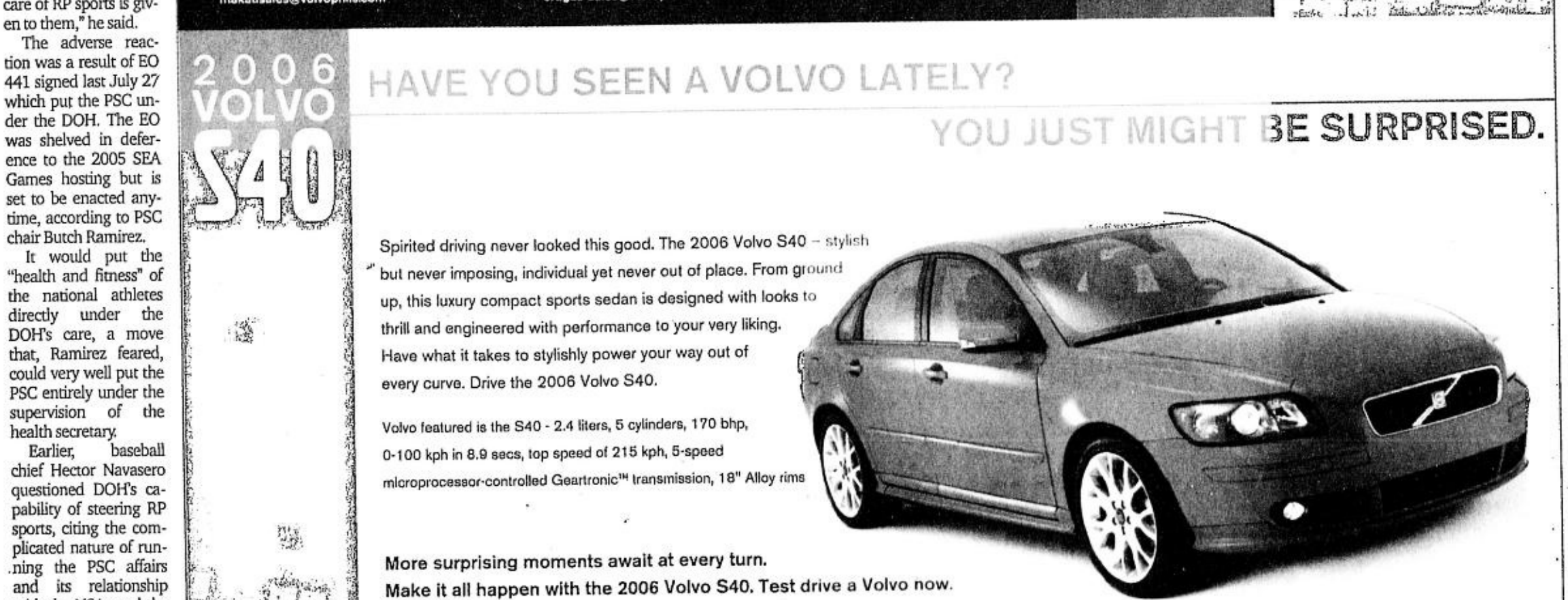
"Why now when it is only sports that makes people happy and united," Hontiveros said. "Unless they wanted to give DOH the budget intended for PSC."

Volleyball's Roger Banzuela said the DOH cannot even fulfill its duty to take care of millions of unhealthy Filipinos. "What more if the task of taking care of RP sports is given to them," he said.

The adverse reaction was a result of EO 441 signed last July 27 which put the PSC under the DOH. The EO was shelved in deference to the 2005 SEA Games hosting but is set to be enacted anytime, according to PSC chair Butch Ramirez.

It would put the "health and fitness" of the national athletes directly under the DOH's care, a move that, Ramirez feared, could very well put the PSC entirely under the supervision of the health secretary.

Earlier, baseball chief Hector Navasero questioned DOH's capability of steering RP sports, citing the complicated nature of running the PSC affairs and its relationship with the NSAs and the Philippine Olympic Committee, which has yet to comment on the existence of the EO.



KT challenge tomorrow

ALESSANDRA Racing Team Inc. will flag off the first round of its 2006 KT Invitational Challenge tomorrow at Carmona Circuit Philippines. Alessandra Madrigal, fresh from another podium finish in the KKS Malaysian Karting Championship in Sepang, and her coach Allan Uy will be competing in this very first karting event for the country. The event is a four round series and participation is by invitation. Only 20 karters will be allowed to compete in each round. The other rounds are set Feb. 11 and 25 and the championship round on June 17. Likewise, Alessandra will hold a big party on Jan. 30 at the Le Souffle Restaurant in Fort Bonifacio Global City. Apart from being a victory party for her podium finish in Sepang last Sunday, it will also be her 10th birthday celebration and a thanksgiving party for her 2005 sponsors ING Private Banking, Puma and Globe Gizmo and co-sponsors Dickies, Petron Ultron, Nissan Gallery and Ford Global City.

MADRIGAL

Roach sees no early Pacman-Morales III

Pacquiao arriving today in Manila

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES—SPEAKING OF IMMEDIATE prospects, trainer Freddie Roach said Manny Pacquiao would "rest in Manila, fight two more fights this year, while waiting for Morales to be ready next year."

That means there would be no Pacquiao-Morales III this year, although Marco Antonio Barrera has again loomed big as a next opponent.

These details were gleaned from an interview conducted by the GMA-7 team that joined Pacquiao when he made a triumphant return to the Wild Card Gym Tuesday from his conquest of Erik Morales last Saturday.

Pacquiao was scheduled to depart yesterday evening for Manila, where he is expected on Friday morning, local time.

"Pacquiao will fight two fights this year, but Morales won't be ready until eight months or maybe a year," GMA-7 cameraman Greg Gonzales quoted Roach as saying.

Pacquiao, in a blue shirt, discussed immediate plans with Roach during the brief visit where the boxing superstar was hailed by a big group that included his countrymen, the staff and boxers working out in the gym.

The Battle, the second clash between the ring rivals, could've been an eliminator for the WBC super featherweight boxing title held by Barrera.

But Pacquiao had told the INQUIRER he refused the WBC proposal because of the $50,000 sanction fee being imposed by the world boxing body.

"Eliminator *lang, hindi bale kung* championship (This was not even the championship)," Pacquiao had protested.

Of course, as holder of the WBC International title, reserved for fighters rated 11th and above by the association, Pacquiao also has the right to immediately challenge Barrera for the 130-pound crown proper.

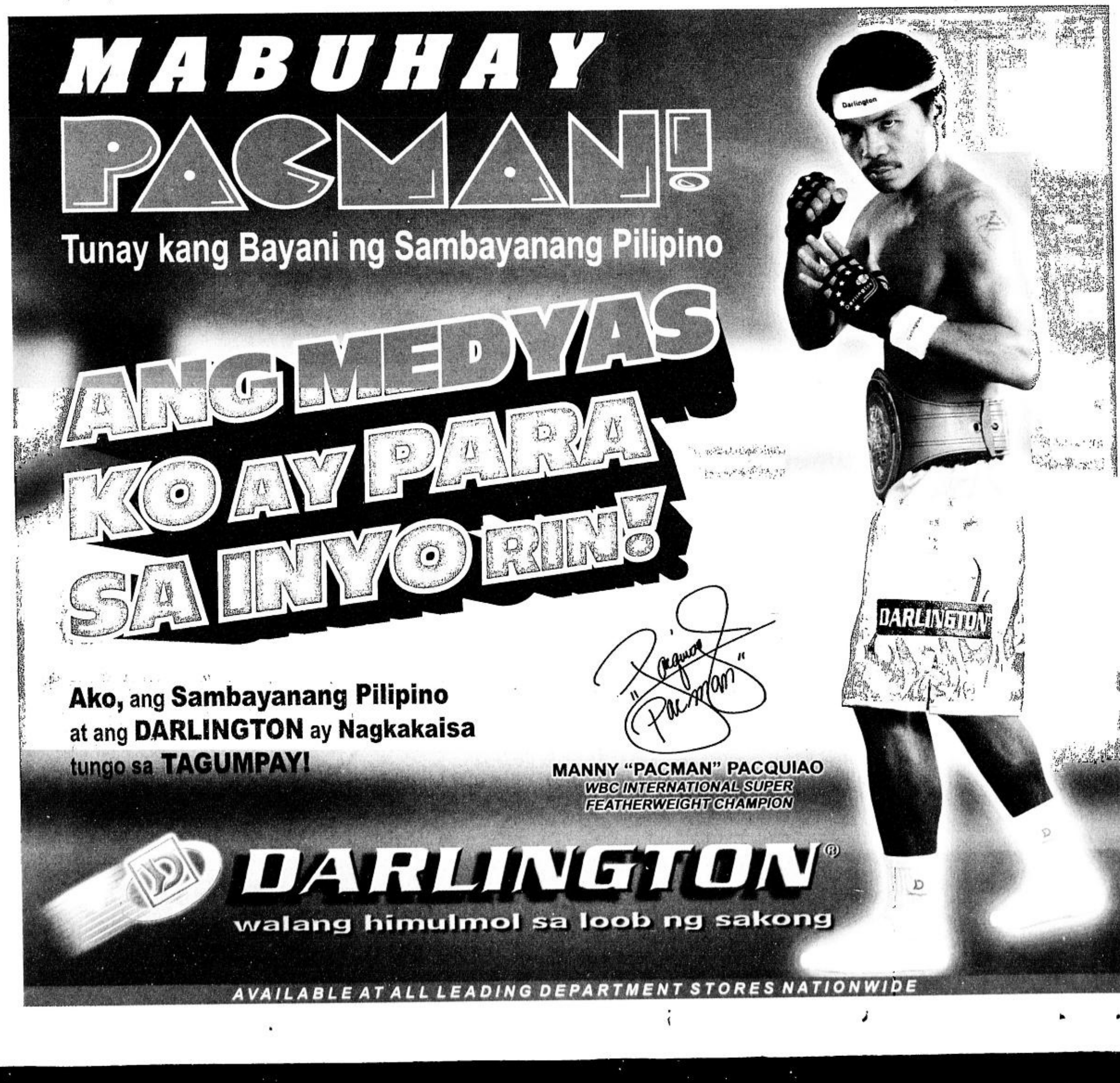
There was a rematch clause in the contract of the Battle, but promoters had to momentarily junk this due to the severe punishment suffered by Morales, who was rushed to the hospital for a check-up after the humiliating loss to Pacquiao.

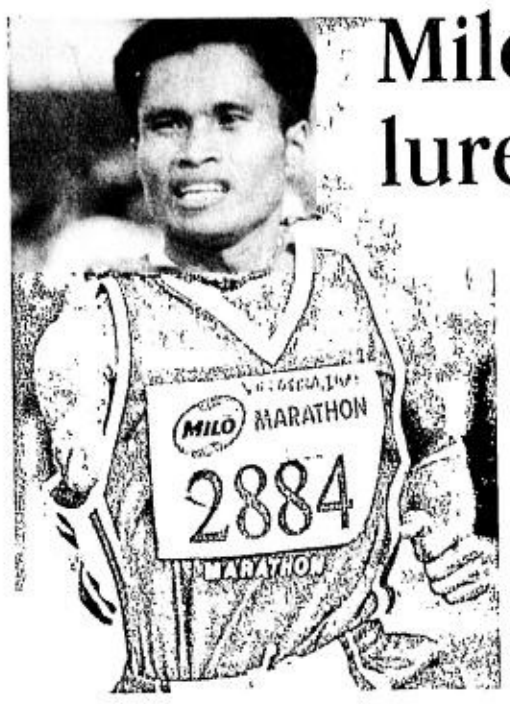
Olympian Zahir Raheem, who had beaten Morales last September, did not figure in the Roach-Pacquiao conversation.

Konica Minolta pro-am rules set

THE TOP 30 PROFESSIONALS IN THE COUNtry cannot chose amateurs with indices of 5 and below as partners for the Konica Minolta National Pro-Am scheduled Feb. 8-11 at the Riviera. Included in the rule are foreign players wanting to join the event staking a record pot of P1.7 million made possible through lawyer Bert Bravo, the chair-CEO of U-Bix Corp., who co-chairs the executive committee with NGAP president Benny Gopez. "We are doing this to level the playing field," said Comm. Danny Pizarro (ret.), chair of the organizing committee. Call 525-6987 or 524-5160 or e-mail at ngapgolf@hotmail.com & website www.ngap.net, or Riviera at (046) 414-2868/2837.

GOLF WINNERS: Ateneo, led by individual grade school champion Marcel Puyat (3rd from left), took the grade school title in the 6th Samsung Golf Interscholastic Championship. With Puyat are (from left) RJ Banzon, Bino dela Paz, Paeng Vera Cruz, Nico Evangelista and Jun Dalandan.





AMPUTEE Isidro Vildosola, who topped last year's season opener, leads the Kidapawan field.

Milo Marathon lures 4,500 bets

A RECORD FIELD OF 4,500 RUNNERS WILL ANswer the starting gun at 6 a.m. on Sunday to kick off the 30th National Milo Marathon at an out-and-back course in front of the Kidapawan City Hall.

Kidapawan City leg Milo marathon organizer Vic Sai has invited City Mayor Rodolfo Gantuangco Jr. and PSC Commissioner Leon G. Montemayor to grace the opening and awarding ceremonies along with Vice Mayor Dr. Luis Malalauan and members of the City Council.

The annual foot race expects a record number of runners from the 30 legs slated for the season.

Asean Para-Games gold medalist Isidro Vildosola, who won the General Santos leg of the Milo Marathon last year and a resident of Matalam, North Cotabato, veteran Arsenio Cuevas, Ray Somozo and long distance runners from University of Southern Mindanao in Kabacan are expected to figure prominently in the men's 21K race.

Poker Tour main event starts April 8

THE PHILIPPINE POKER TOUR MILlion-Peso Hold'em Championship, a series of non-wager poker competitions, will culminate with the main event on April 8-9 at the Airport Casino Filipino in Parañaque.

Satellite tournaments are currently going on at selected Casino Filipino sites and accredited venues. Winners of these satellite tournaments are awarded certificates that will enable them to play in the main event with guaranteed prizes amounting to P1.6 million.

The schedules, venues and tournament fees for the satellite table tournaments are posted at the www.PhilippinePokerTour.com through the secretariat (c/o Cindy) at 817-9092 or 812-0153.

Ramos lashes at PFF for missing U-19 tilt

By Musong R. Castillo

THE PHILIPPINES WILL MISS THE UNDER-19 women's football qualifying tournament in Thailand in March because the Philippine Football Federation "forgot to submit our entry form."

Cristy Ramos, former president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, revealed this yesterday to the INQUIRER as he blasted PFF for its "utter lack of concern" for women's football, which she helped develop as a player in the '80s and later as president of the sport.

The feisty daughter of former president Fidel V. Ramos, now the deputy chair of the Asian Football Confederation, also called for more "prudent spending of the PFF's scarce funds."

According to Ramos, the AFC had written the PFF of the details of the March tournament and the deadline for submission of entries, which was August last year. Because the football agency had "forgotten" about the deadline, it still went on to form the team and hold clinics for its members, she claimed.

PFF president Johnny Romualdez, reacting to the report, admitted the oversight, saying it was "a mistake by one of our staff."

"An apology has been made and we are still trying to join by contacting the highest levels (of officials) of AFC," Romualdez added.

But Ramos said two PFF appeals for reconsideration had been rejected, adding she will not use her influence in the AFC to have the mess sorted out.

"If it was because of other matters, I might consider," Ramos said. "But to appeal because of negligence of other people is ridiculous."

Ramos said that PFF official Domeka Garamendi informed her of the missed deadline on Jan. 3 by saying that "we forgot to submit our entry form."

RAMOS/ A25

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SPORTSWATCH

NCRAA suspends EAC for season

GAMES OF THE 13TH NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION (NCRAA) men's basketball tournament were cancelled yesterday after league officials voted to suspend Emilio Aguinaldo College for the rest of the season. NCRAA president Tisha Abundo of the PSBA said sanctions were imposed on EAC because it violated a league rule prohibiting its players from joining other leagues while the NCRAA season is in progress. EAC, the defending champion in men's basketball, was also competing in the Home and Away Invitational League (HAIL).

Inner Wheel golf fellowship on

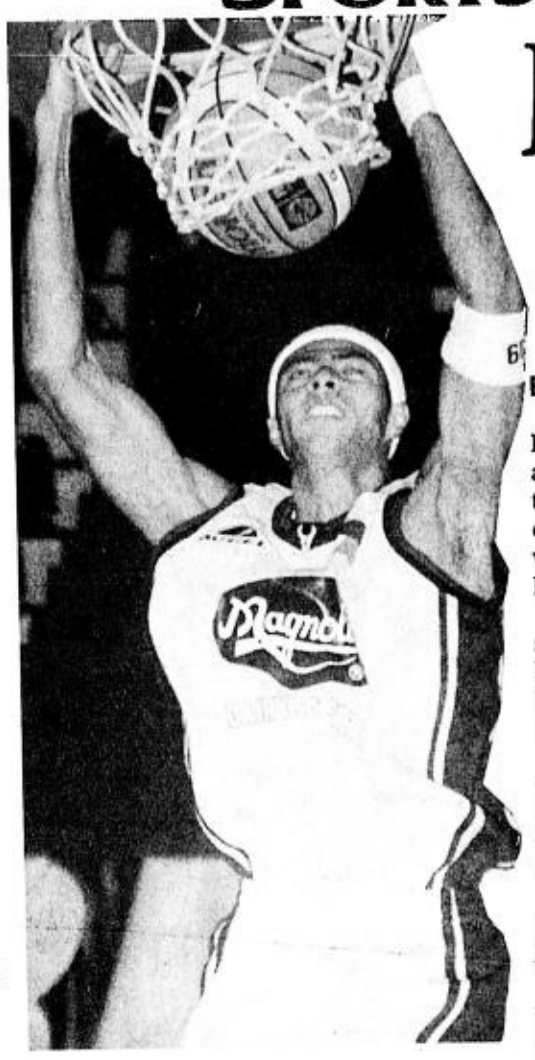
THE INNER WHEEL CLUBS OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC. WILL HOLD ITS 6TH National President's Golf Fellowship Tournament today at the Tagaytay Midlands Golf and Country Club. "This golf tourney is being held to usher the 40th National Conference of this organization composed of wives of Rotarians at the Manila Hotel on Feb. 3 and 4," said National Conference Chair and 2nd NVP Vicky Magadia ,who is overseeing the event with National President Raquel Sta. Ines. Golf Committee Chair Cecile Ferrer said fee is P1,800 for non-members of TMGC and P1,000 for members.

FBL features seven games

THE PRIMOVIT-FUTURES BASKETBALL LEAGUE (FBL) GOES INTO THE HOMEstretch with a seven-game schedule at the Ateneo de Manila covered courts this Sunday. Organized by Britton Distributions, AEG, and Hoop Events, the FBL is the newest school-based grassroots basketball development program. On tap are the Don Bosco Technical Institute (4-1) versus the winless Kings in the midget division. DBTI is going for solo second with Our Lady of Lourdes (4-2) hoping for a DBTI loss. De La Salle-Zobel (6-0) paces group 1 of the midget's division. Group 2 midgets' division leaders Ateneo de Manila and San Beda College-Alabang will also collide. In the mini division, Ateneo de Manila (8-0) is waiting for its semifinal rival.

Las Piñas cockfest: 94 fights

NINETY-FOUR FIGHTS WILL BE FEATURED IN THE SHOWDOWN OF SMALLTIME cockers and backyard breeders starting 6 p.m. today, via the special 3-cock derby at the fully air-conditioned Las Piñas Coliseum. Coliseum manager Alex Tobias, derby host, said that entries came from Bataan, Pampanga, Bulacan, Cavite, Laguna, Rizal and Metro Manila. Aside from the P300,000 on the line, a bonus of P1,000 per win will be given away. Entry fee is P5,500. Submission of entries is from 7 a.m.-2 p.m. Call 873-1040 and 874-3910. Meanwhile, regular hackfights at LPC is held from Monday to Sunday.



ARWIND Santos slams the ball. RUDY ESPERAS

Magnolia, Rain or Shine prevail

By Jasmine W. Payo

RAIN OR SHINE SURVIVED a fourth-quarter meltdown to pull off a 69-67 squeaker over Harbour Centre yesterday and move within a win from another finals stint in the PBL Heroes Cup at the San Andres Gym.

"It was our rebounding (that keyed our win)," said coach Caloy Garcia, whose wards outrebounded the Portmasters, 48-30. "We used our height advantage in this game, even if we shot poorly at the foul line."

In the second semifinal contest, RJ Rizada played hero thrice over to lift Magnolia Ice Cream past Granny Goose in double overtime, 98-97, and hand the Wizards also a 2-0 lead in the best-of-five series.

Rizada, who shot the clutch baskets that forged the two extra periods, also scored the winning drive with 1.9 seconds remaining.

"It was a miracle, we were down by as many as 17 points," said coach Koy Banal after the Wizards ended a three-game slump.

The Painters couldn't find their range in the final period and shot only five of their last 12 free throws, allowing the Portmasters to tie the game at 65.

As the top performers in the elimination round, Rain or Shine and Magnolia had a one-game bonus in the best-of-five series.

GAMES TOMORROW *(San Andres Gym)*
2 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Magnolia
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Rain or Shine

The scores:

First Game

RAIN OR SHINE 69—Ortiguerra 15, Reyes 15, Tangkay 11, Malabanan 9, Enrile 5, Cabatu 5, Tan 4, Sta. Maria 5, Javier 0, Sagad 0, Aljamal 0.

HARBOUR CENTRE 67—Yeo 12, Mesina 12, Reyes 11, Tenorio 7, Paterno 7, Gaco 4, Arellano 4, Luanzon 4, Alonzo 2, Saguindel 2, Menor 2.

Quarters: 20-13, 37-29, 53-48, 69-67

Second Game

MAGNOLIA 98—Chan 22, Santos 19, Williams 14, Rizada 12, Valenzuela 11, Isip 10, Miscias 4, Angeles 3, Jones 3, Bombeo 0, Co 0, Te 0, Dela Cruz 0.

GRANNY GOOSE 97—Latonio 18, Lanete15, Grijaldo 12, Almeda 7, Gavino 5, Ibanes 3, Saladaga 1, Concha 0, Doruelo 0, Ferrer 0.

Quarters: 16-26, 32-38, 49-58, 77-77 (reg), 87-87 (1OT), 98-97

Jarencio taking over as UST coach

By Dennis U. Eroa, *Libre sports editor*

NO LONGER A FORCE TO RECKON WITH IN UAAP basketball, University of Santo Tomas is bringing in a former star known for his sharpshooting ways to call the shots for the Golden Tigers starting this year.

Alfredo "Pido" Jarencio, who wore the white and gold UST colors when the España-based dribblers were still known as the Glowing Goldies, faces the tough task of bringing back the school's glory years when he assumes head coaching chores, replacing Nel Parado.

Jarencio, whose scoring duel with now Bgy. Ginebra team manager and former UE sharpshooter Allan Caidic has become part of UAAP lore, will handle a team with 17 varsity titles, including four straight from 1993 to 1996.

"He's (Jarencio) taking charge next month," said the INQUIRER source.

Jarencio was spotted yesterday morning at the UST Gym watching the drills of the Tigers. The Tigers didn't make the Final Four under Parado in 2004 and 2005.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Tri)—Ginja (4) Silver Music (1), Edden's Quest (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Hurry Putter (6), Sir Olizon (2), Real Charm (1), Last Dance (5)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Crew Cut/Fabiola (7), Manila's Style/Mes Monique (8), Irish Connection (1), Sheza Winner (2)
Race 4—(Penta/Tri)—Yo Tero (1), Four Belles (7), Hoy Sobra Na (9), King of Fortune (2), Tennessee (3)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Si Isidro Ko (6), D'Joy of The Wild (3), Cuadro De Alas (2), Jaw Breaker (4)
Race 6—(Penta/Tri)—Material Ruler (4), D As In Dixie (6), U Are My Sunshine (2), Xtreme Heat (10), Semper Spirit (12).
Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—Batang Kalookan (7), Ingay Ingay (1), Sea of Galilee (3), Jokes Only (4)
Race 8—Penta/Tri)—Kambro (4), Strong Jays (9), Ravishing Raffy (7), Court General (1), Chicklet (2)
Race 9—(Super Six/Quartet/Trifecta)—Tini Bambini (2), La Signorina (7), Ocean Cookie (10), Earth Wind N'Fire (6), Dixie Dash (11), Daldalera/Starry Night (4)

NBC MEMBER: Tagaytay City Mayor Bambol Tolentino (center) and NBC (National Basketball Conference) president and national shooter Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla shake hands after finalizing Batang Tagaytay basketball team's entry into the NBC this year. With them is NBC secretary general Tito Palma. NBC's third season is set to start on March 10.

Pacquiao Big Event derby at SJC Feb. 8

THE MANNY PACQUIAO PROMOTIONS INC., IN COoperation with Sagupaan Complexor 3000, will launch a super cockfighting spectacle billed as Pacquiao Big Event 6-cock derby on Feb. 8 at San Juan Coliseum. This early, bigtime cockers and breeders have confirmed their support to Pacquiao, among them Gov. Ito Ynares and Gov. Chavit Singson. "Manny agreed to co-sponsor the event since part of derby proceeds will be used to support a charitable institution of his choice," said Patrick Antonio of the Gentlemen Cockers Association of the Philippines. Members of GCAP headed by sabong idol Patrick Antonio, Rep. Gerry "Boy" Espina, Rudy Albano, Benjie Lim and Tony Lasala, as well as the SJC management will welcome Pacquiao with a cocktail party on Feb. 3 at Shangri-La Hotel Edsa. For inquiries, contact SJC at 7255369.

Bert Cuevas needs a helping hand

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

MY LONGTIME BUDDY, VETERAN NEWSman and sports editor Bert Cuevas, will hate me for doing this because he doesn't want his friends and acquaintances to know that he is terribly sick and in need of help. But I can't allow him to suffer any longer and do nothing about it.

As a matter of fact, a common friend, Gus Villanueva, who is now top gun at the Journal Group, has already come to Bert's rescue by personally extending a helping hand. I hope other well-meaning people would do the same.

A man of cheerful humor, Bert is now a diabetic and due to enter the hospital again, this time not for diabetes, but for another ailment. Bert has been spending a lot of money and time because of his frequent visits to the hospital, virtually draining his lifetime savings. And now is the time to come to his aid.

* * *

WHY PRO BOXING THRIVES. Even though professional boxing is a hazardous sport, it is impossible to ban it. It survives mainly because many people watch and like it. No other sporting event is as electrifying as a boxing match like Manny Pacquiao's crushing 10th round TKO of Mexican idol Erik Morales in Las Vegas last Sunday.

Boxers who became great champions like Gabriel "Flash" Elorde, the greatest boxer of the 1960-1970 eras, and the man of the moment, Manny Pacquiao, had humble beginnings. But they trained harder and sacrificed more than any other athletes to achieve success. There is no question that both Pacquiao and Elorde did the country proud and, in order to immortalize their feats, I am suggesting to Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and the City Council that a street, public building, avenue or boulevard be named after these boxing heroes.

I had covered many fights in the past and I admired the boxers for their raw courage, stamina and skills. Atop the ring, they have no teammates to rely on; they are vulnerable and exposed to pain and situations where a lot of other athletes would simply give up.

Pro boxing also gave me the good fortune of rubbing elbows with many of its luminaries. I learned the ropes from my late father-in-law, Tirso del Rosario, the first PSA awardee for boxing way back in 1950. Tirso was also the first college boy (from Far Eastern University) to ever earn a crack at a world championship bout when he fought Mexican champion Manuel Ortiz for the bantamweight title at the SRO (standing room only) Rizal Memorial Stadium on Dec. 20, 1947, launching the first big money RP-versus-Mexico boxing duel. A 3-to-1 favorite, Ortiz won a bloody 15-round decision over the gallant Filipino fighter who gave no excuses after the fight.

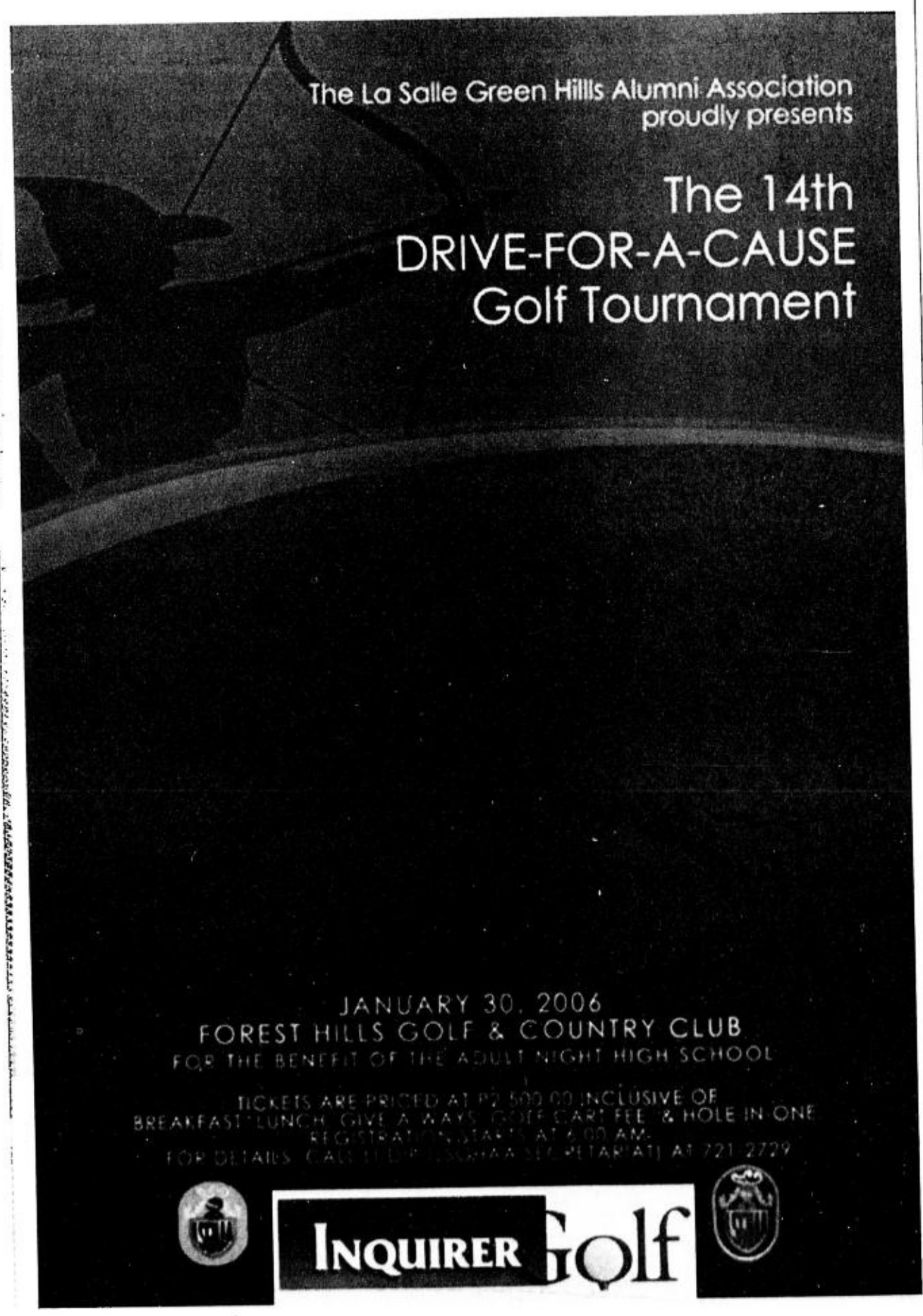
I also learned a lot from my long association with former World Boxing Council president Justiniano Montano Jr. and lawyer Rudy Salud, the WBC secretary general who crafted the council's constitution and by-laws; the venerable Lope "Papa" Sarreal, the grand old man of international boxing who treated me like a son; and popular sportscasters Joe Cantada, who gave me my share of TV exposure during his time and my mentor and idol, the fabled Willie Hernandez.

Still, I am repelled by both the aim and practice of a sport whose main purpose is to hurt. The decision of the major international boxing bodies (World Boxing Council, World Boxing Association and International Boxing Federation) to limit big fights to 12 rounds and invoke a mandatory count of eight for down and defenseless boxers changes nothing. I am also repelled by cases of boxers being exploited and, as I have said before, I wanted no part of it. I could no longer justify my association with boxing.

In the Philippines, more than 18 boxers have died in recent years, among them Manuel Zayas, Andy Balaba, Retituto Espenili, Mauro Saucelo, Macky Siluano, Eugene Barutag, John Eman Juarez and Freddie "Amang" Gimay. Some have fallen on hard times like former world champions Rolando Navarette and Luisito Espinosa while many others have suffered injuries, including Pretty Boy Lucas, Rey Tam, Dommy Ursua, Al Asuncion, Tito Abella, Tito Jhun and Fred Basa.

The best argument for the abolition of pro boxing is none other than Muhammad Ali, considered as "The Greatest" in boxing circles. Known for his glibness, Ali now talks in half-completed whisperings, a mere shadow of the past when he was a master of metaphors and rhymes.

As famous American TV journalist Howard Cosell said, "Too many blows to the head and body had transformed Ali into somebody I no longer knew."



CHAMPIONS: Members and officials of Hobe Bihon, led by team owner Bobby Co (center), ruled the 2005 PICAA Filipino-Chinese division at the Philippine Buddhacare gym. They are (standing from left) Wilmer Ong, Alvin Teng, Jerry Tsai, Ryan Dy, Jerry Tan, Rodel Ng, Mark Du, Paul Dy, Ferdie Go, Rhagnee Cinco, and assistant coach Moriel Garcia and (seated from left) Olan Omiping, Terry So, Eugene Tan, head coach Michael Oliver, Samious Uy and Findel Lao.

Giants shoot for 3-0 advantage vs Express

GAMES TODAY (*Ynares Center*)
4:40 p.m.—Air21 vs Purefoods
7:35 p.m.—Red Bull vs Barangay Ginebra

Game 1—Ginebra d. Red Bull, 105-100 (OT); Purefoods d. Air21, 94-89
Game 2—Red Bull d. Ginebra, 86-83; Purefoods d. Air21, 88-87

PUREFOODS LEARNED A VALUable lesson from the mistake of San Miguel Beer and Talk 'N Text: Don't take Air21 for granted.

Despite a 2-0 lead, the Chunkee Giants remain resolute in Game 3 of their best-of-seven semifinal series with the Express in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at 4:40 p.m. today at the Ynares Center.

"Air21's opponents prior to the semifinals might have looked beyond their series and made the mistake of taking them (Express) for granted," said Purefoods coach Ryan Gregorio Wednesday night.

Anything but a title-contender when the season started, the Express stunningly booted out defending champion San Miguel Beer in their best-of-three wild card series before kicking out the Talk 'N Text Phone Pals in their best-of-five quarterfinal duel.

"We don't want that to happen to us and believe me, once they get their rhythm, they're very hard to stop," said Gregorio, whose Giants had limited the Express below 90 points the past two games. *June Navarro*

TOP BOWLERS: Gary Libby, the Philippine Daily Inquirer's vice president for information technology and prepress, displays his trophy after ruling the Makati Bowlers' Club annual championship recently at the Powerbowl at the Rockwell Powerplant. Libby received his award from MBC president Pepe Fernandez (fourth from left). Other winners were (from left) Edgardo Gundrán (6th place), Norberto Lim (2nd place), Gonzalo B. Roman Jr. (4th place), Conrado A. Muyot (3rd place) and engineer Elmer V. Acuesta (5th place).

Amelie finally makes it

Faces Belgian in first 'Slam' final since 1999

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—FOR Kim Clijsters, it was one injury too many. For Amelie Mauresmo, it meant a long-awaited second chance at a Grand Slam title.

Second-seeded Clijsters, who will rise to No. 1 when the new rankings come out next week, sprained her ankle in the third set of her semifinal match Thursday against third-seeded Mauresmo, bringing an abrupt end to a match that looked to be heading to a tense conclusion.

Mauresmo was leading, 5-7, 6-2, 3-2, and 15-love when Clijsters hobbled to the net and withdrew, ending the prospect of an all-Belgian final with eighth-seeded Justine Henin-Hardenne.

Henin-Hardenne, seeking a fifth Grand Slam singles title, earlier extended her Melbourne Park winning streak to 13 matches by ousting No. 4 Maria Sharapova of Russia, 4-6, 6-1, 6-4.

"It's a shame it had to happen," Clijsters said before heading to a hospital for medical scans. "I think it was going to be a close one. Whenever I have a problem, I'm not going to quit for nothing."

But this time the pain was way too great for Clijsters, already suffering coming into the match. Combined with hip and back pain, she had trouble with her left hamstring from compensating for the ailments.

It looked like she might win in straight sets as Mauresmo, known for making mistakes when things get tight, showed her nerves again.

Serving at 5-6, she fended off four set points before double-faulting on the fifth to hand Clijsters the first set.

As the match wore on, Clijsters looked increasingly stiff, but had started hitting the ball better again in the third set.

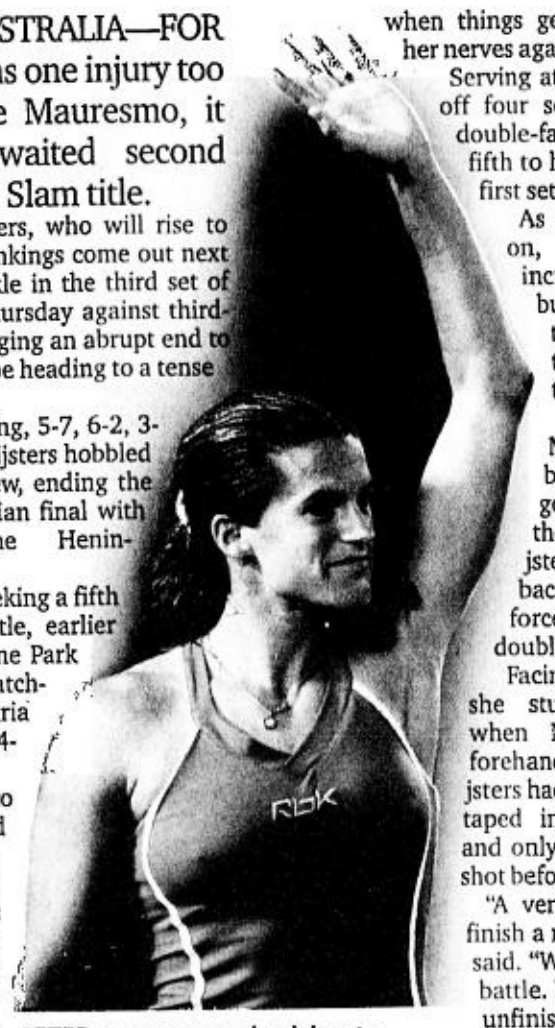
After breaking Mauresmo to get back on serve and going up 40-0 in the fifth game, Clijsters let Mauresmo back in with two unforced errors and a double-fault.

Facing a breakpoint, she stumbled and fell when Mauresmo hit a forehand behind her. Clijsters had her ankle heavily taped in the changeover and only played one more shot before retiring.

"A very strange way to finish a match," Mauresmo said. "We had such a great battle. It's a little bit of an unfinished match, but that's the way it is sometimes. I just hope she's going to get better."

Henin-Hardenne beat Clijsters in the final here in 2004 but was sidelined by injuries last year.

She won the Sydney International the week before the Open, coming back after two months out with a hamstring injury, and is now 10-0 this season.



AFTER seven years and an injury to semifinal foe Kim Clijsters, Amelie Mauresmo is back in a Grand Slam final. AFP

Third-seeded Mauresmo has not returned to a Grand Slam final since Martina Hingis beat her for the 1999 Australian Open title. *AP*

CLIJSTERS: Fallen fighter REUTERS

Ramos...

From page A23

"How can you forget a major tournament for the national team," Ramos asked.

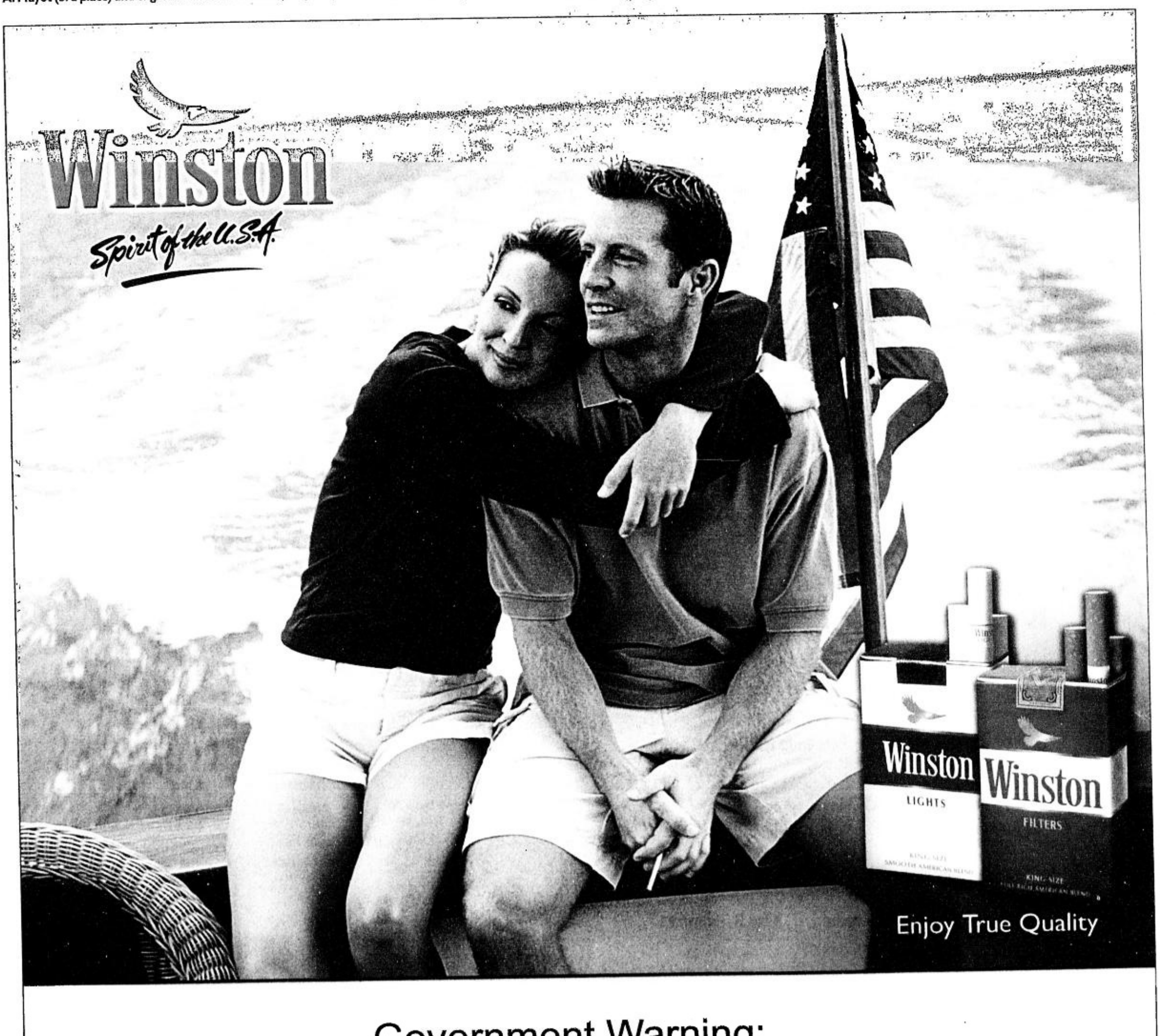
Still, she said, the PFF held tryouts and formed the team last December.

"They (PFF) did a great injustice to the players, their parents and to women's football. Someone has to be accountable. Either they resign or they give the money back."

The money Ramos was referring to was the sum spent in conducting the tryouts, training, clinics and seminars of the players, whom she said trained after school, rain or shine, for flag and country "and don't deserve to be treated this way."

"Easily, the PFF spent at least P150,000 for those activities," Ramos said. "And they (PFF officials) always tell us that we lack funds when we need them for training. There should be more prudent spending of scarce funds."

Ramos added that the Philippine Sports Commission had also spent for the coaches who trained the team. "How do we recoup the money spent by PSC for the coaches," she asked.



SPORTS

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Chicago 104, Toronto 88; Cleveland 106, Atlanta 97; Detroit 106, Milwaukee 102, OT; Washington 89, Boston 87; San Antonio 84, New Orleans 68; Houston 102, Charlotte 78; Seattle 113, Utah 94; Memphis 107, Minnesota 87; Denver 97, Portland 94; Dallas 102, Golden State 93; LA Clippers 90, New Jersey 77

NBA on TV: Solar Sports—Dallas vs. Seattle 11:30 a.m. (replay at 12 MN)

Kings get Artest, victory

NEW YORK—MIKE BIBby poured in 35 points, including eight in overtime, as the Sacramento Kings edged the New York Knicks, 106-102, on Wednesday, then prepared for the arrival of Ron Artest.

Brad Miller contributed 25 points and 15 rebounds and Kevin Martin added 21 to the Sacramento total but all the focus was on King's newest player Artest, who was acquired from the Indiana Pacers earlier in the day for smooth-shooting Peja Stojakovic.

In Stojakovic the Pacers get a three-time all-star and one of the league's top shooters.

The Kings also get an immensely talented player in Artest, a former defensive player of the year and all-star who was averaging over 19 points a game before he was placed on the inactive list after publicly requesting a trade.

Last season, Artest was handed the biggest non-drug related suspension in NBA history when he was banned for 75 games for his role in an ugly brawl that spilled over into the stands during a game against the Detroit Pistons at The Palace of Auburn Hills.

"It was a tough day but we left on good terms and that was pretty cool," Artest said in a television interview after the on-again, off-again trade was completed. *Reuters*

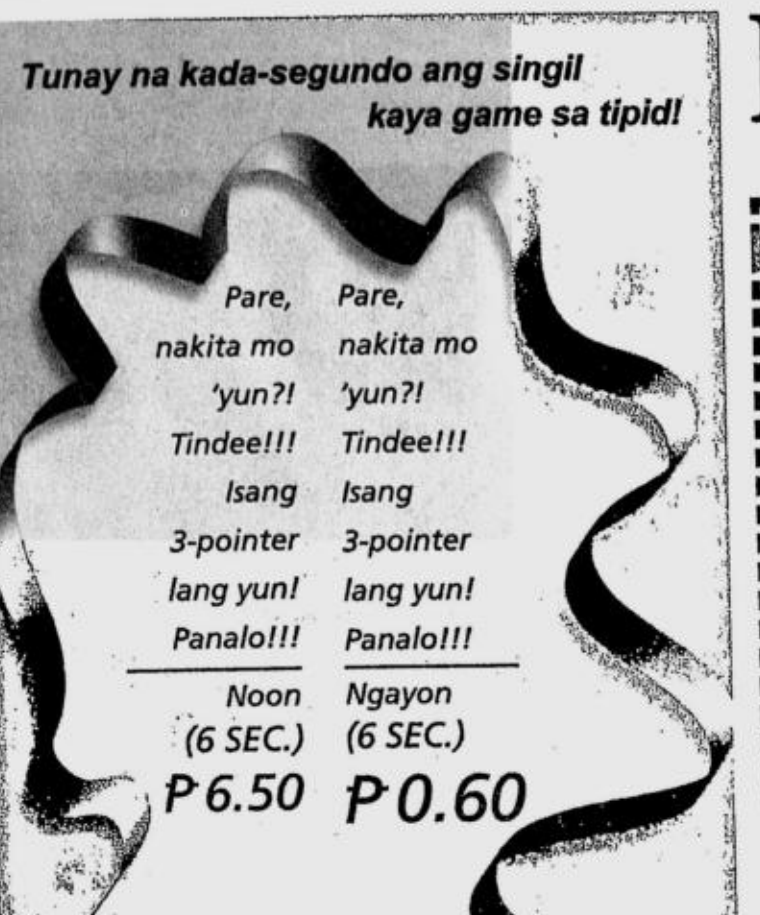
Espiritu, Ramos off to Langkawi

FORMER ASIAN KING VICTOR ESPIRITU and Merculio Ramos head a crack six-man Pagcor-Casino Filipino pro cycling squad in the TM Le Tour de Langkawi on Feb. 3 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Joining Espiritu, who emerged the top rider in the region in 1998, and Ramos, the first Asian and Filipino to win the yellow jersey in the tough international race in 2004, in the squad are Bernard Luzon, Albert Primero, Sherwin Carrera and Sherwin Diamsay.

The riders leave for Kuala Lumpur on Tuesday and plunge into road work the next two days. The event starts on Feb. 3 in front of the KL Towers to Rawang.

The Integrated Cycling Federation of the Philippines (PhilCycling) has endorsed the Pagcor riders' participation in the event, the highest-rated race in Asia, which includes a separate Asian category.



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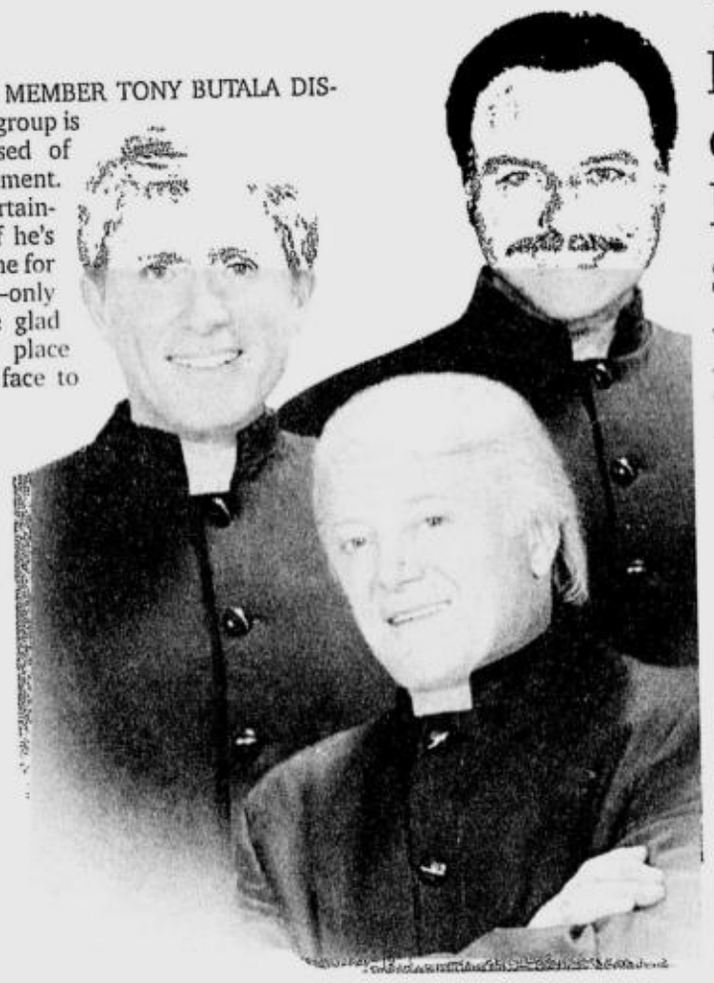
Not for the money

Tony Butala of the Lettermen says he'd pay to perform

By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor

LETTERMEN FOUNDING MEMBER TONY BUTALA DISmisses the notion that his group is just another act composed of oldies long due for retirement. He chided INQUIRER Entertainment for daring to ask if he's still doing what he has done for decades—shows, tours—only for the money. Were we glad this exchange took place through e-mail and not face to face!



AND they're "not a nostalgia group," insists Butala, bottom, a founding member.

TAKE FIVE

The Lettermen has always been known for interpreting other people's songs. Why didn't the group find time to write original compositions?

The greatest love ballad singers of all time like Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Tony Bennett, Johnny Mathis, Matt Monroe, Barbara Streisand and Celine Dion are also not famous songwriters themselves. Like these artists, we concentrate on perfecting our voices, presentation and showmanship to elevate our live shows to a level of popularity higher and more consistent than most singer/songwriters. I and especially Donovan Tea have written many songs that the Lettermen have recorded. Unfortunately none of these songs have become hit singles.

What is the greatest song the Lettermen ever recorded?

We have recorded over 70 albums containing some 750 songs, 25 of which became worldwide hits. I believe that our recording of "Goin' Out Of My Head/Can't Take My Eyes Off You" was the hit single that had the most impact on our career. It was a most unique record, having fully incorporated two good songs into one great record.

What have you learned from touring around the world?

People, no matter their country, creed, cast or color, are basically the same—good and well-meaning. [They] want to be treated fairly and kindly and will return the love and compassion that they are given.

You have said that the Lettermen are not a nostalgia group but an entertainment entity that happened to have hits in the 1960s and '70s. What does that mean, exactly?

We aspire to be known as a current entertainment entity that just happens to have had hit records in the past. Rather than most nostalgia groups that merely stand on stage and run through their old hits, we constantly work hard to make our show up-to-date and top quality. We... interact with the audience and entertain them, so they walk out of the concert hall with [something] intangible... that they didn't come in with, and that they can't obtain by staying home and listening to our records. I'm sure you've seen recording artists that are entertainers, but just because a recording artist has hit records, it doesn't mean he tries to be a true entertainer.

What keeps you going aside from the prospect of continuing to earn money from singing?

You don't know my financial status. How can you assume it's money that keeps me going? For over 40 years, after every show, I've been getting a standing ovation. [Then I] sign autographs and meet people who tell me how much the Lettermen's music has meant to them and their families. If promoters weren't paying me to do shows, I'd pay them for the privilege of letting me perform.

(The Lettermen's shows are set tonight and tomorrow night at the Araneta Coliseum; Jan. 29 in Iloilo; Jan. 30 in Cebu; and Jan. 31 in Davao.)

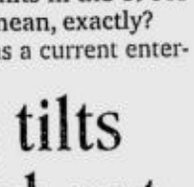
Singing tilts not just about musical talent

ON "SEARCH FOR THE STAR IN A MILLION" last Sunday, **Kris Lawrence** emerged as the grand champion, over similarly talented runners-up **Tata Villaroel** and **Jimmy Marquez**. What factors helped him surge past them in the final stretch of the tough singing tilt?

Vocal prowess apart, we think that **Kris'** unique musical and visual "packaging" did it for him.

His choice of cool and accessible songs over the standard "amateur hour" do-or-die songs made him click with younger music fans, because it did away with the trying-hard mustiness that often cloaks contestants of local singing competitions.

VIEWFINDER



Nestor U. Torre

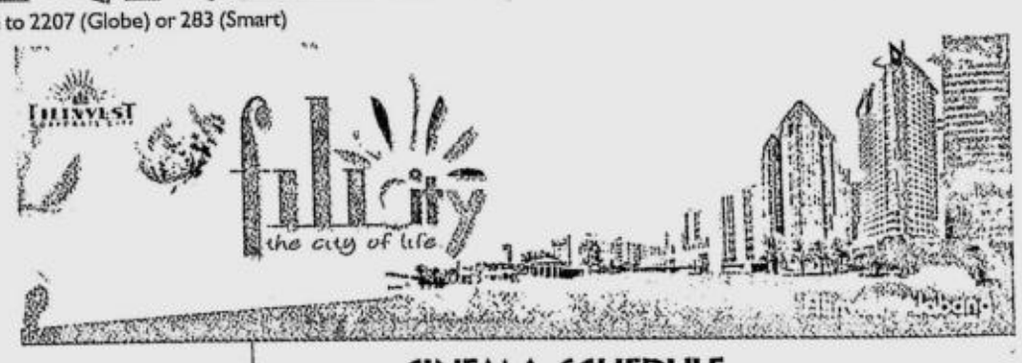
Kris' signature look made him stand out even more: "pirate" head scarf under rakishly-tilted hat, flashy shirt and suit, and trendy and chunky jewelry—Kris' packaging was divertingly distinct.

Now that he's won, however, the signature look could end up as a liability, because it could eventually limit him, and restrict his forays into other musical and performance styles.

Singing stars need to do everything they can to keep from becoming predictable, so Kris should eventually opt to go for greater variety, not just in his music, but also in the way he looks.

So, the "urban pirate" look that worked well for him in the competition should soon give way to a more flexible performing persona, if Kris wants to stay longer in the music biz.

SINGING/ A2-2



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You've Lost That Loving Feeling
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The Things We Did Last Summer
Turn Turn Turn
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Moon River
Witchita Lineman
More
The Impossible Dream
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The Look Of Love
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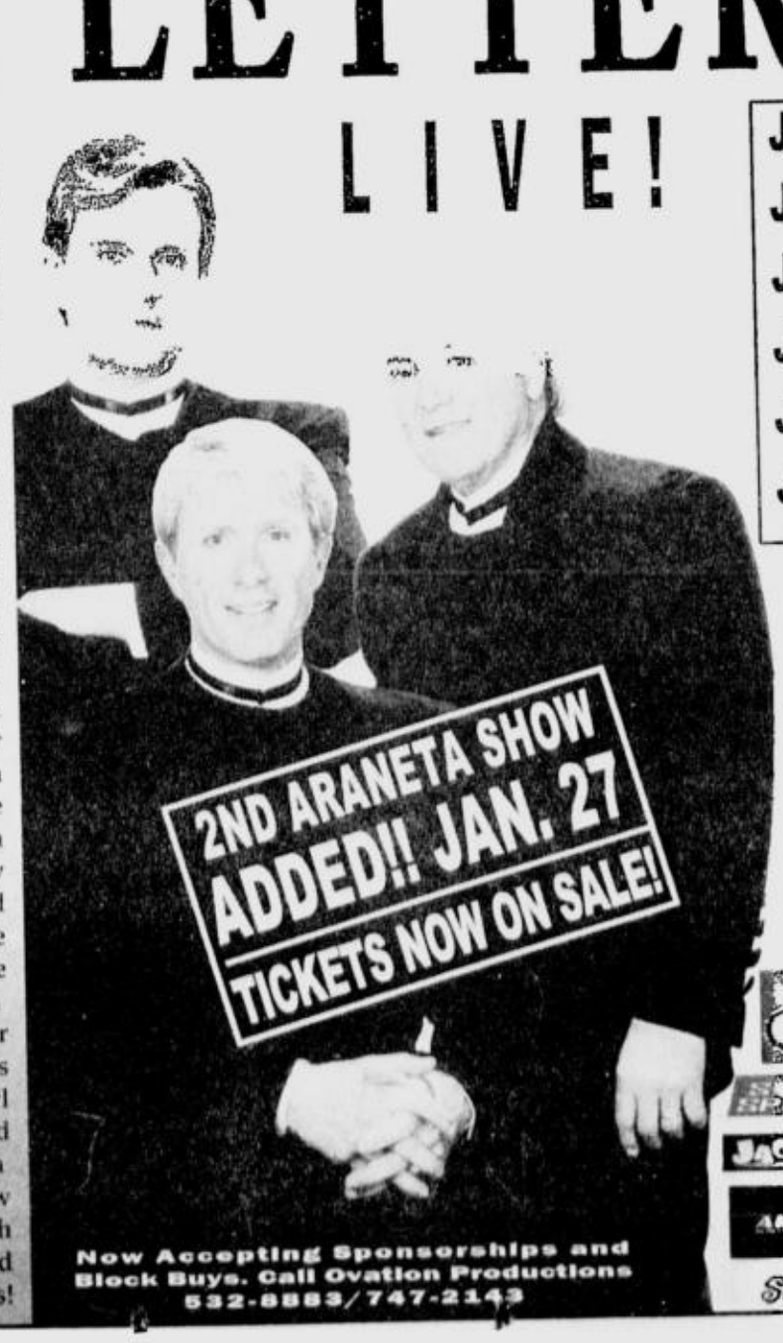

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Singing tilts not just about musical talent

From page A2-1

Speaking of looks, at one point in the finals, all of the tilt's past winners were presented to viewers and the studio audience, and it was clear that appearance played an important role in their relative success as stellar musical performers.

Simply and bluntly put, the winners who look good, young *and* svelte have the most successful careers.

So, singing tilts aren't only about musical talent and verve in performance. Good looks may not be everything, but they are a key part of a singer's stellar persona in these parts.

Therefore, aspiring singers who don't look all that good should address those problems and try to rectify them first *before* they throw their hats into the musical ring.

This could have sidelined a talented finalist in this year's tilt. So, the "realistic" rule of thumb does apply.

Finally, final survivors **Kris** and **Tata** were both given the same song to sing at the ultimate stand-off, and **Kris** proved his supremacy by simply singing the demanding number better than **Tata**.

Having said all that, we still decry the elimination in midstream of the finalist we believe was the best singer in the whole bunch. He looked good, too, so his appearance wasn't the deal-breaker, just inept judging.

Well, there's nothing that can be done about that now, but if the gifted singer opts to launch his career, notwithstanding, we'll help him attain the success his exceptional talent deserves.

Demi Moore is back

Last seen as the good girl gone bad in "Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle," **Demi Moore** finally plays a starring role again in the romantic thriller, "Half Light."

She plays Rachel Carlson, a successful mystery novelist whose life takes a turn for the worse when her son drowns. She nurses her psychic wounds in a cottage on a desolate island, but receives haunting messages and visions that warn her of imminent danger. Rachel starts to fear for her sanity—and even her life!

Young Global Citizens Camp

The British Council is mounting its young Global Citizens Camp to bring together young people from all over East Asia and the UK to promote cultural exchange, interfaith dialogue, mutual understanding and peace.

The international camp is currently being held in Davao's Eden Nature Park, with 50 young people from the UK, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines participating.

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4 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD-2

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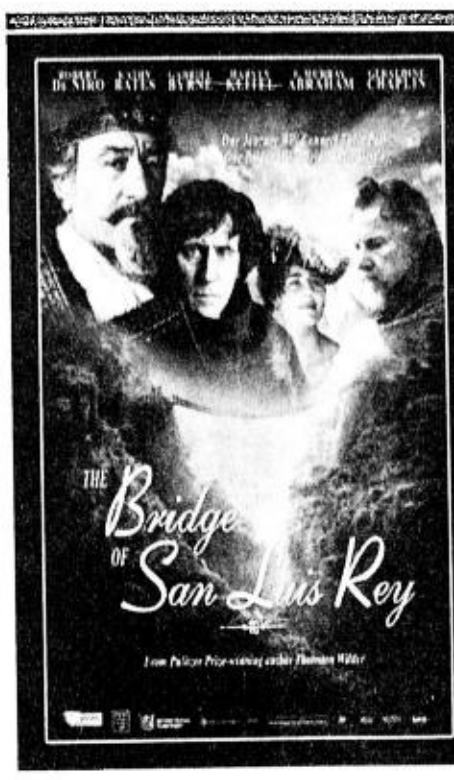
Hot stars turned up at the recent launch of "Lovapalooza 2006." Among them were hosts Luis Manzano and Nancy Castiglione, left, and Mariel Rodriguez, Sam Milby and Bianca King, above. Marketing Director Noel Lorenzana of the local event's sponsor, Unilever Philippines, announced the message of the worldwide Valentine's Day kissing marathon: to love bigger and better. Set Feb. 11 at Manila's Baywalk on Roxas Blvd., "Lovapalooza 2006" will be led by hundreds of celebrity guests. Call 0920-9703221.



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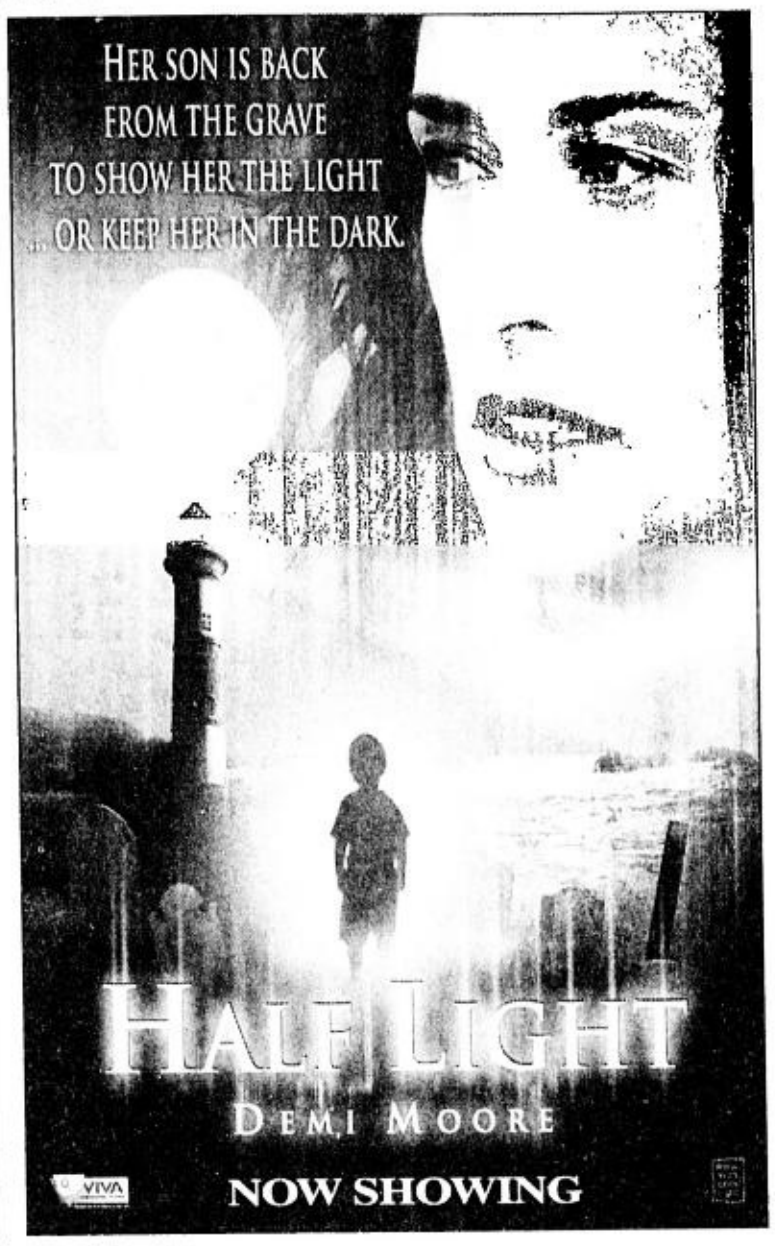
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 — 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 — GP
3 ZATHURA — 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 — GP
4 HALF LIGHT — 1:05, 3:35, 6:05, 8:35, 11:00 — PG-13



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HALF LIGHT PG13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 GP 1:40,3:50,6:00, 8:10,10:15	ZATHURA GP 1:45,3:55,6:05, 8:15,10:20
RUMOR HAS IT PG13 12:50,3:05,5:20, 7:35,9:50	CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 12:30,3:30,6:30,9:30	UNDERWORLD 2: EVOLUTION R13 1:25,3:40,5:55, 8:10,10:20

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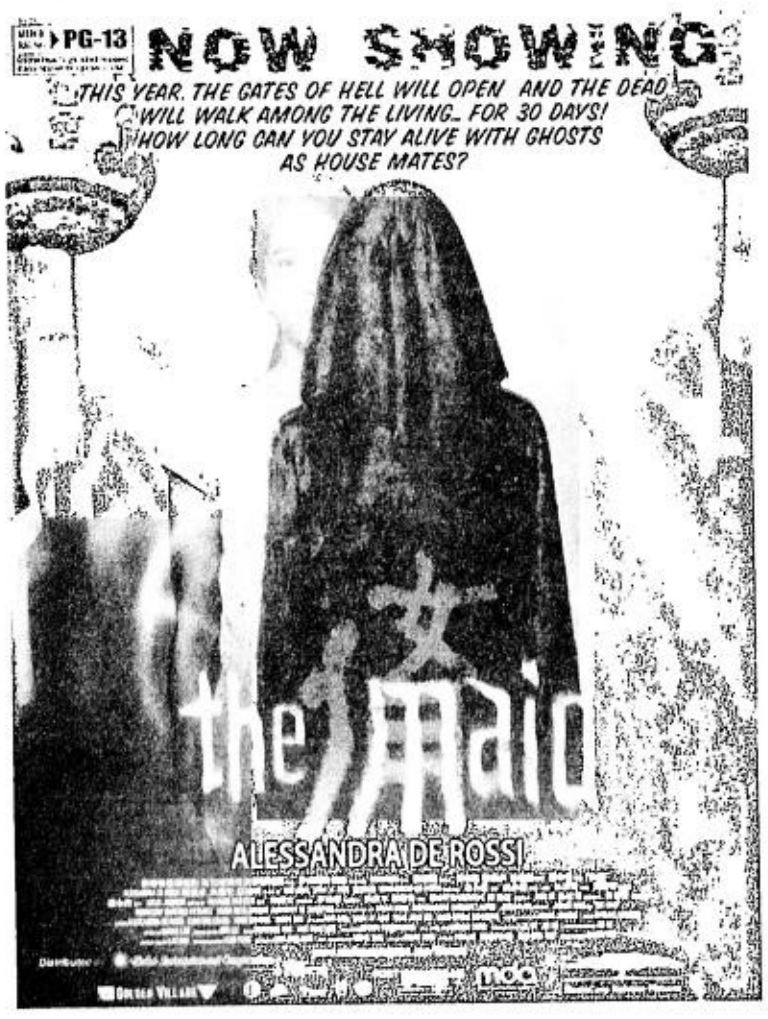

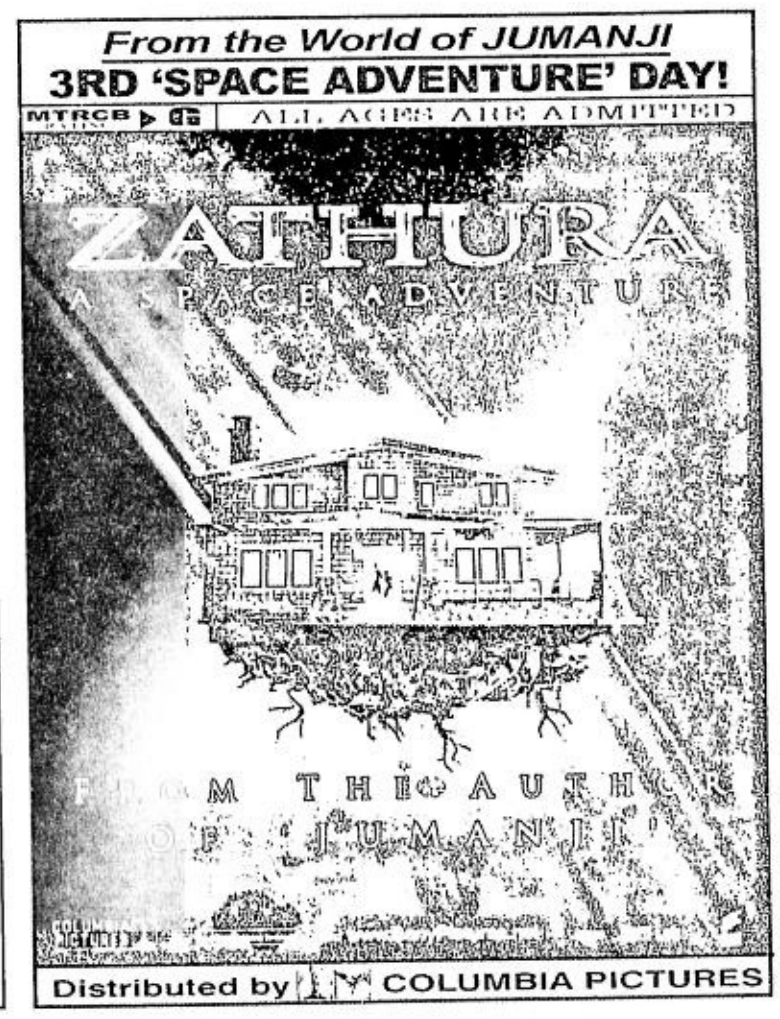

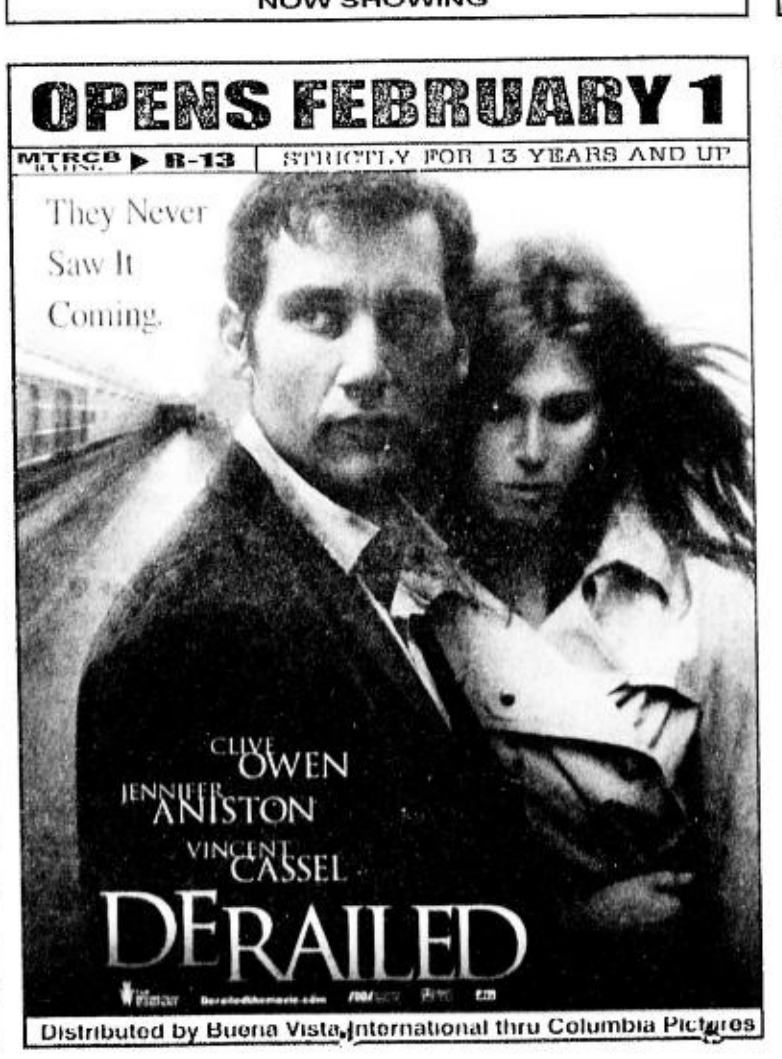

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CEBU (032) 231-3879

1	UNDERWORLD EVOLUTION 10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18/07:24 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END
2	RESERVED
3	FAMILY STONE 10:50FS/11:00MF/01:06/03:12/05:18/07:24 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:15END

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2 NARNIA
3 ZATHURA
4 BIG TIME
5 HALF LIGHT
6 KING KONG
7 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
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9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 UNDERWORLD 2
11 THE MAID
12 LITTLE MANHATTAN

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1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 HALF LIGHT
3 NARNIA
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
5 ZATHURA
6 RUMOR HAS IT
7 THE MAID
8 BIG TIME
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 KING KONG

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1 ZATHURA
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 UNDERWORLD 2

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 ZATHURA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

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2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 KING KONG
4 NARNIA
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
6 BIG TIME
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 ZATHURA
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 THE MAID
11 RUMOR HAS IT
12 WHO'S YOUR DADDY

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
3 ZATHURA
4 HALF LIGHT
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 NARNIA
7 THE MAID
8 BIG TIME
9 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ZATHURA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 ZATHURA
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 BIG TIME
5 THE MAID
6 HALF LIGHT
7 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
8 NARNIA

SM CITY MANILA
1 ZATHURA
2 HALF LIGHT
3 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 BIG TIME
6 NARNIA
7 THE MAID
8 LITTLE MANHATTAN
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 BLUE MOON
11 RUMOR HAS IT
12 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 ZATHURA
3 HALF LIGHT
4 THE MAID
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 ZATHURA
2 NARNIA
3 BIG TIME
4 ST. ANGE
5 FAMILY STONE
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 ZATHURA
2 FAMILY STONE
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 NARNIA

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 NARNIA
2 ZATHURA
3 WHO'S YOUR DADY
4 RUMOR HAS IT

SM CITY BACOOR
1 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
2 THE MAID
3 ZATHURA
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7 KING KONG
8 NARNIA

SM CITY MARILAO
1 ZATHURA
2 NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 IN HER SHOES

SM CITY DASMARIÑAS
1 NARNIA
2 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ZATHURA

SM CITY LUCENA
1 NARNIA
2 FAMILY STONE
3 THE FOG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 ZATHURA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 NARNIA
4 THE FOG

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 RESERVED
3 FAMILY STONE
4 ZATHURA
5 BIG TIME
6 NARNIA
7 THE MAN
8 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY ILOILO
1 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
2 RESERVED
3 NARNIA
4 ZATHURA
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 RESERVED
8 FAMILY STONE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 ZATHURA
2 THE MAN
3 FAMILY STONE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 BIG TIME
6 NARNIA

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 NARNIA
2 IN HER SHOES
3 ZATHURA
4 AN UNFINISHED LIFE

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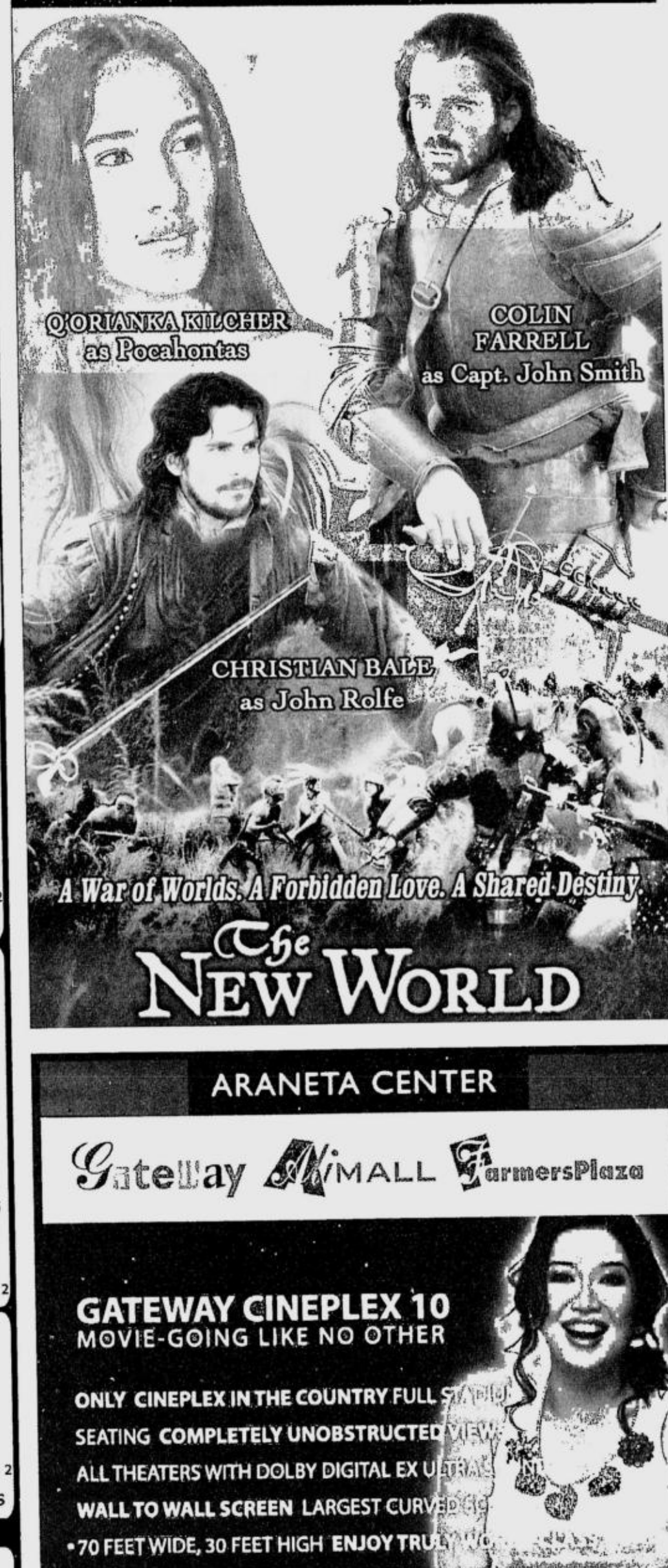

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THE MAID 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00	HALF LIGHT 11:50 / 2:20 / 4:50 / 7:20 / 9:50	NARNIA 1:10 / 4:00 / 6:50 / 9:40	HALF LIGHT 1:40 / 4:10 / 6:40 / 9:10
RUMOR HAS IT 12:10 / 2:30 / 4:50 / 7:10 / 9:30	LITTLE MANHATTAN 12:50 / 3:00 / 5:10 / 7:20 / 9:30	CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 12:40 / 2:55 / 5:10 / 7:25 / 9:40	ONLY P130 ADMISSION GLOBE PLATINUM P249/P299

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DON'T GIVE UP ON US 12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15		UNDERWORLD 2 1:40 / 4:00 / 6:20 / 8:40	ZATHURA 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 1:45 / 4:00 / 6:15 / 8:30		HALF LIGHT 12:45 / 3:15 / 5:45 / 8:15	DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS

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Four friends are going to be separated for the first time during summer school break. They use a pair of pants as a way of keeping in touch, and they manage to share experiences as though they were together.

The DVD (P475) has additional scenes and interviews with the cast. VCD copies sell for P275.

'The Island'

Also from Warner Home Video, now available in major outlets, is "The Island," a futuristic action thriller from director Michael Bay. Stars Ewan McGregor and Scarlett Johansson.

DVD (P499) special features include "The Making of The Island," showcasing special effects, stunts and chase scenes. VCD at P275.

Sarah's show

After the release of the live album, Sarah Geronimo's "The Other Side"—her first major solo concert, at the Araneta Coliseum—is now available on DVD.

SARAH Geronimo

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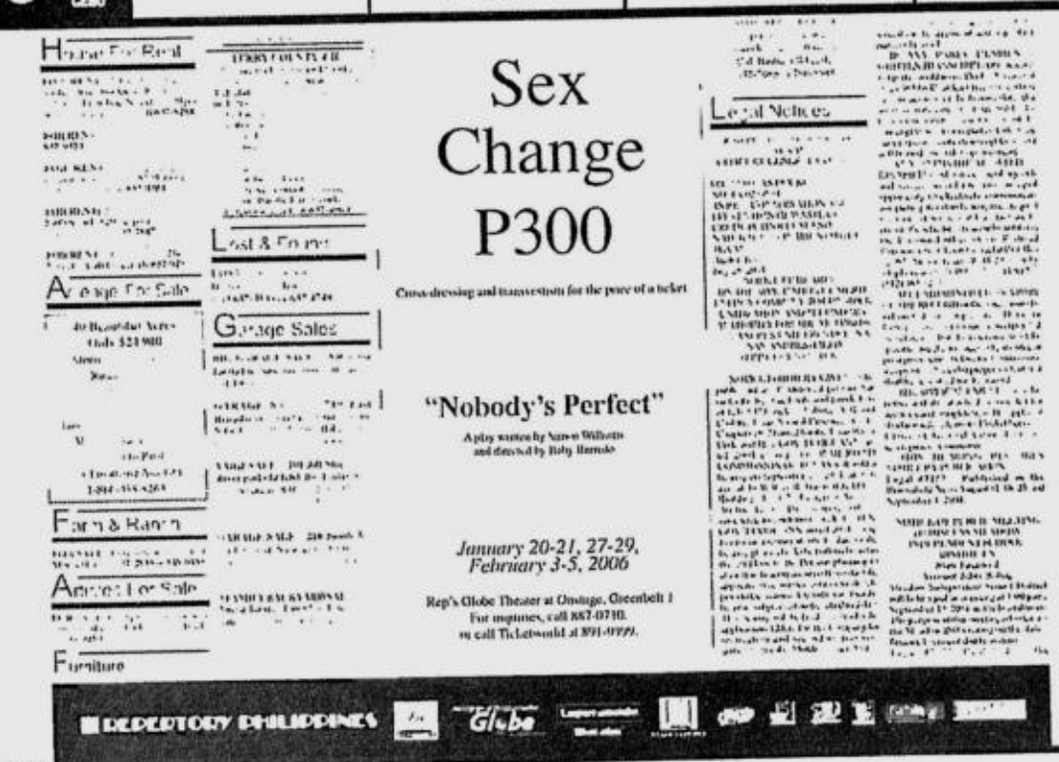
G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 ZATHURA	2 HALF LIGHT	3 THX UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 RUMOR HAS IT	5 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	6 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	7 THE MAID
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 ZATHURA		2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX ZATHURA GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 RUMOR HAS IT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HALF LIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	5 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2		2 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	
	3 ZATHURA	4 HALF LIGHT	5 RUMOR HAS IT	
ACC AYALA CENTER CEBU	1 ZATHURA	2 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	3 THE FAMILY STONE	4 JARHEAD



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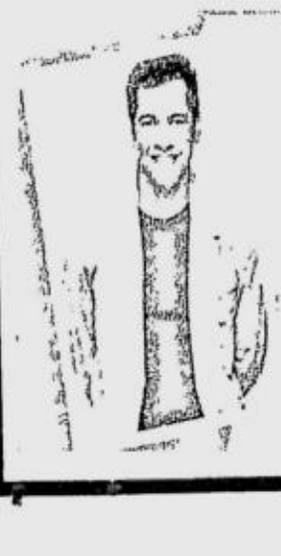

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1 ZATHURA • THX
2:15 4:40 7:05 9:30

2 ZATHURA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 HALF LIGHT
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 UNDERWORLD 2
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

7 RUMOR HAS IT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 THE MAID
1:25 3:35 4:45 7:55 10:00

9 The Chronicles of NARNIA
1:30 4:20 7:10 10.00

10 JARHEAD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 ZATHURA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 THE MAID
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:20 10:00

4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 The Chronicles of NARNIA
11:40 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

6 UNDERWORLD 2
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 HALF LIGHT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

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1 RUMOR HAS IT
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

2 ZATHURA
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:00

4 UNDERWORLD 2
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

5 LITTLE MANHATTAN
12:15 2:00 3.45 5:30 7:15 9:00

6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

7 The Chronicles of NARNIA
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

8 THE MAID
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

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1 THE MAID
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
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4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 ZATHURA
6 The Chronicles of NARNIA

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2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
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3 THE FAMILY STONE
4 ZATHURA

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3 ZATHURA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 THE MAID

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5 SAINT ANGE
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The blossoming of Auraeus Solito

Filipinos in Park City, Utah, cheer director of 'Maximo,' RP's bet in Sundance

PINOY producer Raymond Lee and screenwriter Michiko Yamamoto on Main Street, where most of the Sundance action takes place. Behind them is the Egyptian Theater, one of the main screening venues.

Photos by Ruben and Janet Susan Nepales

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Next stop: Rotterdam, then Berlin film fests

PARK CITY, UTAH—BECAUSE HE ALMOST missed the opening of the Sundance Film Festival—and probably also because of jet lag—Auraeus Solito, director of "Ang Pagdadalaga ni (The Blossoming of) Maximo Oliveros," was feeling a bit down on Sunday evening.

But the warmth, cheerfulness and hospitality of Filipino waiters in the Chinese restaurant where a reception for Asian Pacific filmmakers was held buoyed the spirits of Auraeus (and ours as well). Auraeus was the most applauded among the Asians introduced as members of the Sundance Class of 2006.

Wearing Mangyan jewelry and a scarf fashioned from Mindanao cloth, the director was a refreshing presence that night in this beautiful snow-covered city. The filmmaker—he will always hold the distinction of having directed the first movie from the Philippines to participate in Sundance's World Cinema Competition (Dramatic Category)—even found something spiritual in the snow blanketing the hills and rooftops.

Auraeus could have been more exhilarated had he and his companions—"Maximo" producer and screenwriter **Raymond Lee** and **Michiko Yamamoto**, respectively, and writer **Jessica Zafra** (who told us she was here only as a "sabit")—been allowed to attend the film's press and industry screening on Friday morning (Jan. 20). Those involved with a film's production can't attend said screenings. We guess the reason is to avoid the impression that the filmmakers' presence can influence the viewers' reaction.

What some of the folks who watched "Maximo" told me after the screening would surely warm the hearts of Auraeus' group. **John Polly**, managing editor of the New York-based Genre magazine, said as he came out of the Yarrow Hotel theater, "I liked the movie ... it was not done in the typical melodramatic way."

Lawrence Ferber, a freelance entertainment writer also from New York, said, "I loved the movie—it is complex but in a good way."

Strongest endorsement

The strongest endorsement came from **David Magdael** and **Winston Emano**, Filipino-Americans who have come to Sundance for the past five years. David and Winston are partners in the publicity firm, TCDM and Associates, whose Sundance clients this year include "Maximo's" competition rival "Eve & the Fire Horse" and the documentary "Wordplay" (the latter is generating a lot of good buzz). For the record, these guys are not handling "Maximo" so their comments, which they e-mailed to me later, are noteworthy.

David wrote: "The way the story is told and the film's pacing, down to the long pauses, lend the film more depth. Audience reaction is positive, with a number of buyers taking in the press screening.

"It is great to see a film from the Philippines that has substance and quiet beauty in telling a very simple, yet universal story line. The scenes between Maximo and his father are tender and priceless—given that the father is the neighborhood mafia king and Maximo is a 12-year-old gay boy who wears make-up and girly outfits. The relationship between Maximo and his brothers is even more illustrative of blood being 'thicker than water.' Maximo takes care of his brothers and his father with such devout commitment—cooking, cleaning, sewing and braiding one brother's hair.

"This film is proof that there is a ... burgeoning independent film movement [in the Philippines], with directors like **Auraeus Solito** taking risks both technically and story-wise. It is refreshing to see a film from the Philippines that is not based on a central melodramatic story line and with actors who are not overacting or merely mugging for the camera. Also, the fact that the director shot 'Maximo' digitally promises new hope for Philippine cinema, as this makes filmmaking accessible to more Pinoy artists.

"For this to be the first selection from the Philippines at Sundance is outstanding. It is a film that all of us Filipinos can be proud of, and hopefully will support when it comes out in (US) theaters.

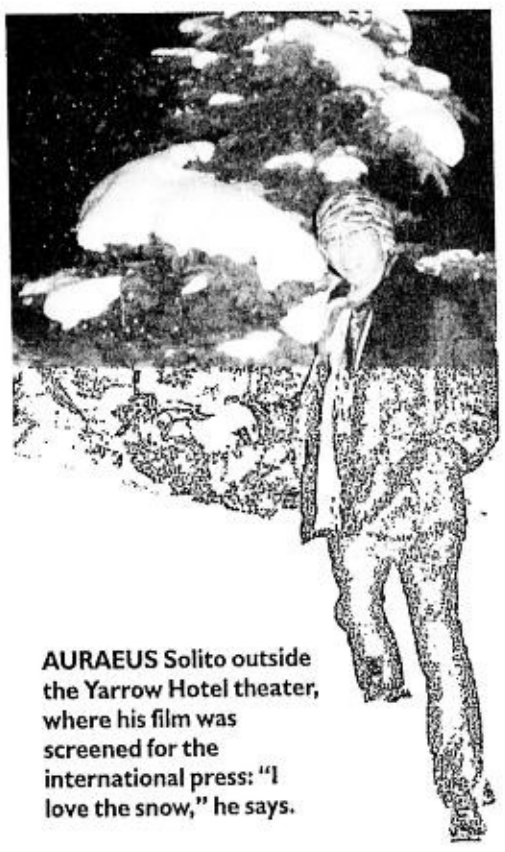
"Congratulations to the filmmaker, the writer and the wonderful cast! I look forward to more stories from this writer and director and more roles for the actor who played Maximo."

Winston commented: "'The Blossoming of Maximo Olivares' is such a rare treat ... It is a textbook example that, given the opportunity, resources and support, Filipino filmmakers and Filipino films can not just compete on a world class stage such as Sundance; they can shine outright.

"It made me proud that the film had been selected for competition; it made me that much prouder after I watched it alongside a full room of press and industry professionals who laughed when I laughed, and who were moved when I was moved.

"It's a mix of refreshment and relief to see in an international festival a Filipino film that does not rely on a story line about macho dancing masseurs to be selected. Director **Auraeus Solito** and writer **Michiko Yamamoto** make for dynamic creative combination and the performance of young Nathan Lopez is a tear-inducing revelation."

Winston added: "Four Filipino filmmakers have preceded Auraeus in receiving a prestigious Sundance invite. They are: Q. **Alan Brocka**, **Rod Pulido**, **Mark Decena** and **Ramona Diaz** (Pinays **Christina DeHaven** and **Maricel Pagulayan** were producers of Sundance entries). But 'Maximo' is the first one originating from the Philippines."



AURAEUS Solito outside the Yarrow Hotel theater, where his film was screened for the international press: "I love the snow," he says.

Glowing description

"Maximo" was glowingly described in the festival's film guide. N. Bird Runningwater, one of Sundance's Native American Initiatives programmers, wrote: "Just like the flower in the opening scenes, 12-year-old Maxi is a beautiful accent in the gritty underworld on the outskirts of Manila, where he lives. Living with his outlaw father and two older brothers, Maxi dutifully infuses with love everything he does for them—from cooking and sewing to braiding his brother's hair.

"As part of an impressive ensemble cast, newcomers **Nathan Lopez** and **JR Valentin** exuberantly inhabit their roles as Maxi and Victor. With its vibrant cinematography, simple scoring, and vast emotional scope, Auraeus Solito's directorial debut as a dramatic filmmaker seems itself like a flower amid the grit of most contemporary cinema."

N. Bird was also quoted in Variety as saying, "Be sure to see 'The Blossoming of Maximo Oliveros' in World Cinema Competition."

After the reception at the China Panda, we braved the wintry chill and walked to the nearby Yarrow Hotel for a chat with Auraeus. As we shivered even in the short walk, Auraeus, Golden Zenith awardee at the Montreal World Film Festival gushed, "This is my first winter. *Napakaganda pala ng snow dito. Parang* spiritual."

In the hotel lobby, he reflected on his making it to the Sundance Class of 2006.

"I am spiritually strengthened and humbled," said Auraeus, who is proud of his Palawan tribal roots. "I felt the love of all the Filipinos at the restaurant where we had the Asian party. That is the reason I do films. We may be a poor country but we are not poor in spirit."

At Redford's table

Auraeus was thrilled to share a table with **Robert Redford** at the latter's brunch reception for the filmmakers. (Robert's 25-year-old Sundance Institute is behind the festival.) Still, meeting the Pinoy waiters was a bigger thrill for him. "When they gathered around me," he said, "I could feel their positive energy. I was down and depressed because I was tired. I just arrived from Okinawa. My flight was delayed and would have taken another day, but I insisted that I had to be here on the 19th, no matter what. *Hindi ko tuloy nakita si* Jennifer Aniston (whose movie 'Friends with Money' opened the festival).

"At the restaurant, *nakakita ako sa wakas ng kanin*!"

This Asian Public Intellectual Fellow of Japan's Nippon Foundation revealed, "This is such a blessing. My friends from the Philippine Science High School who are living in the US helped [bring me here]. I don't even have a credit card. I was really touched by that."

Who would have thought that "Maxi" could take Auraeus this far? After Sundance, he said, "I am attending the Rotterdam festival and then the Berlin Festival."

As we write this column, four more screenings of "Maximo" have been scheduled. It is competing against 15 other films, including "Solo Dios Sabe (Only God Knows)," which stars **Diego Luna** of "Y Tu Mama Tambien." The awards night will be on Saturday, Jan. 28 (Sunday in Manila).

What are his thoughts on the awards night? In his typical simple way, Auraeus replied, "*Kahit ano ang ibigay sa akin ng* Lord, *masaya na ako*."

(E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.)

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1 ZATHURA MTRCB: GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
2 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA MTRCB: GP 1:30, 4:20 (LM)
UNDERWORLD 2 MTRCB: R-13 7:30, 10:00 (LM)
3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 MTRCB: GP 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
4 HALF LIGHT MTRCB: PG-13 12:00, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00

PREMIERE THEATRE SOONG SISTERS/ 11:50, 4:55, 10:00 KING OF MASKS (GP) 2:45, 7:50

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The tale of an elderly street performer and a master of the Sichuan opera art, who longs for a male heir. When he discovers a cute boy for sale and takes him home to pass off as his own son, he's surprised to find out that his "heir" is in fact a girl.

SOONG SISTERS (1997)
JANUARY 27 - FEBRUARY 2
The Soong family was a political dynasty in China that reached the highest levels of power. This film follows the lives of the US-educated Soong sisters and their journey back to China.

SCREENING SCHEDULE FOR JAN. 27

Soong Sisters	11:50am
King of Masks	2:45pm
Soong Sisters	4:55pm
King of Masks	7:50pm
Soong Sisters	10:00pm

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BIG, brave and brash

'Big Time' is a breath of much-needed fresh air in local movies

By Oliver M. Pulumbarit
Contributor

REVIEW

WHILE THE INDIE OFFERING "BIG Time" can be considered inspired alongside notable heist and black comedy films that have preceded it, it very much stands on its own and is a breath of much-needed fresh air. Impeccable wit and obsession are easily apparent in its screenplay and production; it screams "labor of love" from beginning to end. The story, penned by Monster Jimenez and director Mario Cornejo, inject both dark and light humor into a fast-paced analysis on the desires of decidedly dubious people.

It is easy to get into. The characters have distinct quirks and motivations but, each in their separate spheres, they all wish for that elusive, better life. Childhood friends Jonas and Danny (Nor Domingo and Winston Elizalde) are small-time crooks who try to put themselves on a bigger map by kidnapping Melody (Joanne Miller), the show biz hopeful girlfriend of young druglord wannabe Wilson (Jamie Wilson). Wilson, the son of powerful crime lord Don Manolo (Michael de Mesa), is set to be groomed as a politician in their home province. But as fate—or the plucky screenwriters—would have it, such things are easier said than done.

What make the characters human and likeable are two things: 1) the pop culture references are done right, and therefore, work; 2) the actors are so natural for their roles, there seems to be no "acting" involved. The daydream ruminations of Melody, for example, not merely mention Sharon Cuneta and the "Mano Po" movies, but they also analyze the workings of the local entertainment scene.

Michael de Mesa epitomizes cool and ruthlessness as Don Manolo, even if the character is at times too cartoon-y. He has a push-button neon sign behind him that flashes "Silence!" and he's almost always shown eating sumptuous meals alone in his office! His thespic sparring with Wilson, Elizalde and Domingo makes up some of the movie's many highlights. Guest appearances of Soxy Topacio, Jon Santos, and Ryan Eigenmann are brief but meaningful.

"Big Time" is aimed at a more mature audience; there is violence and language that can make the most jaded viewer squeamish (again, because they're done right). The dialogue, while peppered with jokes that are either laugh-out-loud funny or a little iffy, has a sincerity that develops the shady characters into people we can root for, or despise thoroughly.

Let's hope that something can be done about the less-than-perfect screen resolution of the projected movie, because the grid-like pixels tend to show in most brightly lit scenes. It's a problem that has turned up in other recent digital efforts, but one that could be addressed, hopefully soon. Regardless, "Big Time" is a solid effort that rightfully demands everyone's attention and deserves hard-earned movie-viewing money.

The long wait is over.
New Mitsubishi ahead...
(see B2, page 3)

FRIDAY, JANUARY 27, 2006

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

BUSINESS

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Assistant Editor Corrie S. Narisma

Text us your feedback: inquirer biz name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

The long wait is over.
New Mitsubishi ahead...
(see B2, page 3)

RP borrowings reached ₱614.7B in 2005

Gov't set to borrow ₱531.6B in '06 to fill ₱125-billion budget gap

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT'S BORROWINGS FOR 2005 reached P614.7 billion, exceeding its program by P38.3 billion, as fiscal authorities last year decided to cover some of the government's financing requirements for 2006.

Data from the Bureau of the Treasury showed that the government was supposed to borrow only P576.4 billion in 2005 to pay off maturing obligations and to finance projects that could not be covered by government revenues generated last year.

But National Treasurer Omar Cruz earlier said the favorable interest rate environment last year had encouraged the government to borrow more than what was programmed for 2005. He said the government had hoped to cover part of its financing needs for 2006.

This year, the government is set to borrow P531.6 billion, which will be used to fill in the expected P125-billion budget deficit and to pay off maturing liabilities.

Of the P614.7 billion borrowed last year, P396.819 billion came from domestic sources. Foreign creditors accounted for the rest.

Domestic borrowings are usually made through the weekly issuance of Treasury bills and bonds, while foreign borrowings are done either through sovereign bond floats or through official development assistance offered by multilateral lending institutions.

Because the borrowings were higher than the target, the government decided to pay off more obligations than what had been programmed. Data showed that the amount spent for amortization last year stood at P379.1 billion, or P18.4 billion higher than the program of P360.7 billion.

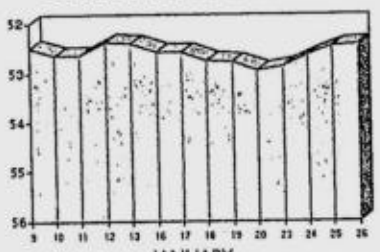
WHAT'S INSIDE

Fit to a Ty /B5

EU helps RP penetrate European market /B6

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



JANUARY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱52.44 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 26, 2006

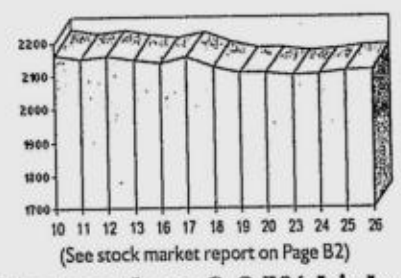
¥115.58 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 26, 2006

GOLD: $560.50-561.00

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 26, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page B2)

Shares close 0.25% higher

SHARE PRICES YESTERDAY closed 0.25 percent higher, extending modest gains on the back of index heavyweight Philippine Long Distance Telephone (PLDT), dealers said.

They said there was some position adjustment before an increase in the value-added tax rate next month, but the market is now expected to consolidate ahead of the Lunar New Year when most foreign fund managers will be on holiday.

The composite index gained 5.32 points to 2,117.81 points after trading between 2,109.27 and 2,125.32. Volume was 2.37 billion shares worth P1.1 billion ($21.5 million).

The broader all-shares index advanced 14.04 points to 1,020.24. Losers led gains 43 to 38, with 57 stocks unchanged.

The peso was at 52.412 to the dollar as of mid-day.

Top-traded PLDT rose P45 to P1,840. Bank of the Philippine Islands gained a peso to P58.50. *AFP*

Real estate firms draw clients away from insurance

By Daxim L. Lucas

THE LIFE INSURANCE INDUSTRY HAS BEEN selling fewer than expected insurance policies partly due to the aggressive marketing efforts of real estate firms, according to the head of the country's largest insurer.

Philam Life president and CEO Jose L. Cuisia Jr. said that property companies have recently adopted the strategy of selling their products directly to expatriate Filipinos, who traditionally are a strong source of revenue for insurance firms.

The shift to real estate investments is part of a growing phenomenon where investors, like overseas Filipino workers (OFWs), are increasingly viewing real estate as alternative forms of insurance vis-à-vis traditional insurance policies.

"We're seeing strong competition from real estate companies, especially since they're marketing aggressively abroad," Cuisia said during a press briefing yesterday.

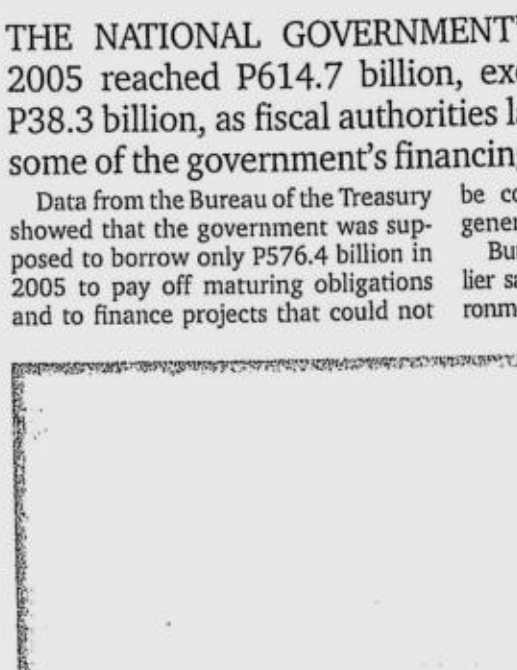
The Philam Life chief did not reveal financial details, but conceded that his firm's performance in 2005 was affected by a host of factors, including the migration of OFWs to real estate investments, the woes of the pre-need industry, and the weak local economy.

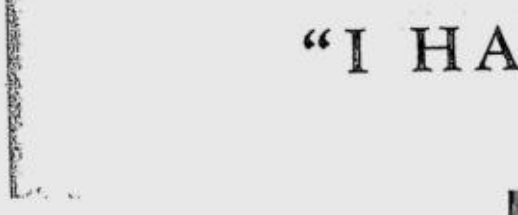
In particular, large real estate firms like Ayala Land Inc., Megaworld Properties and Holdings Inc., and Federal Land, among others, have targeted OFWs for their newer residential projects.

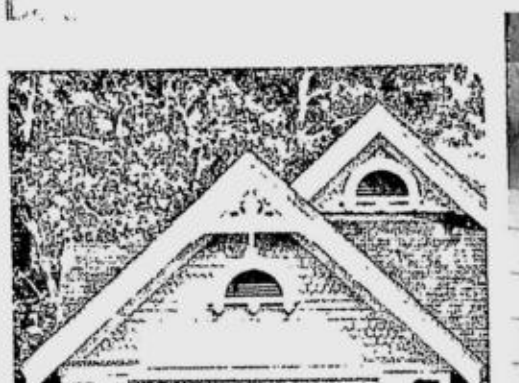
Cuisia said that although Philam Life welcomes the competition from real estate firms—adding that it is better for OFWs to invest in property rather than spend on consumer goods, as was the trend in the past—he stressed

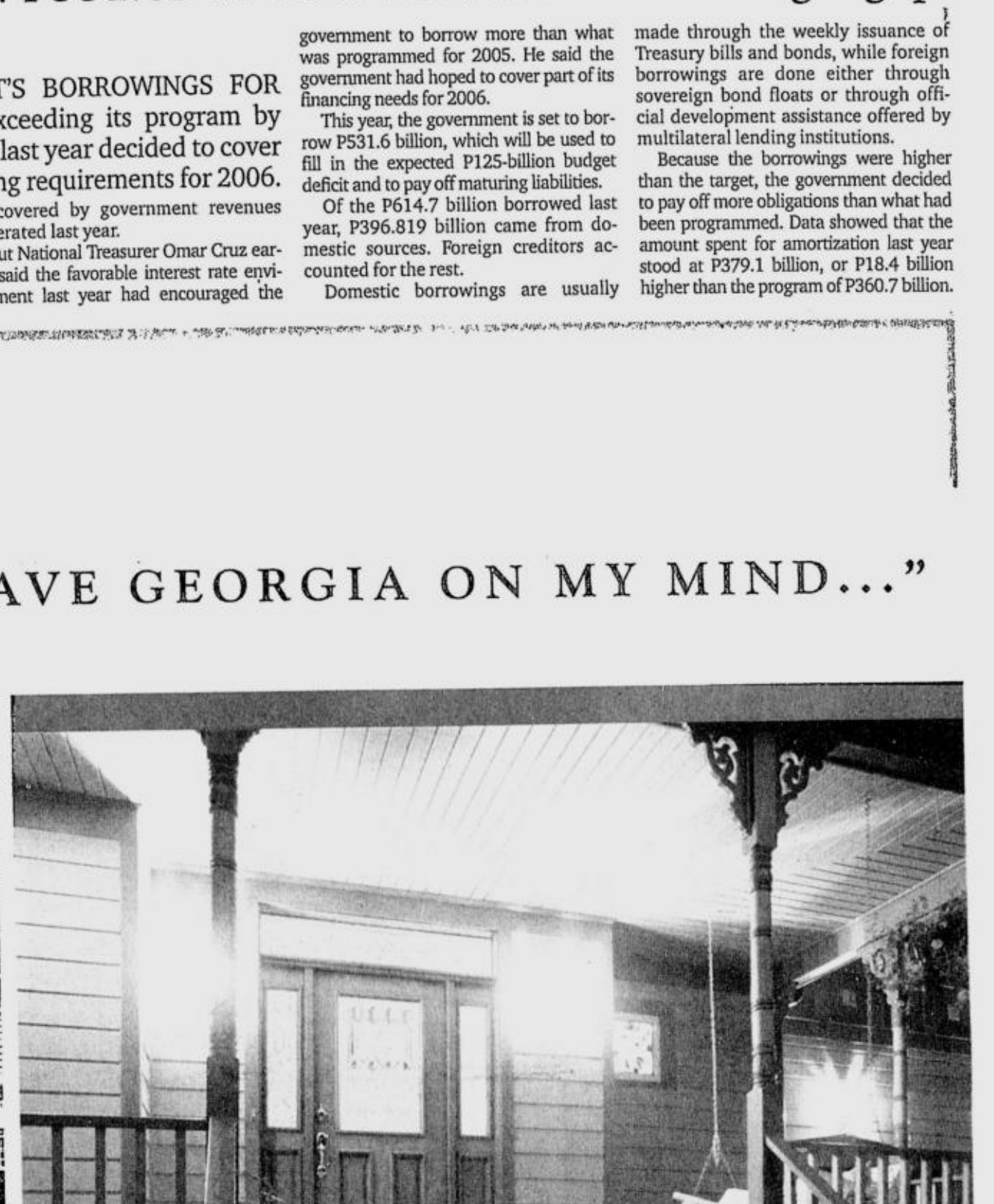
REAL/ B3

"I HAVE GEORGIA ON MY MIND..."









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Fit to a Ty

THE ELDEST SON OF TAIPAN GEORGE TY, Arthur, is set to be elected president of the family-controlled Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co. during the shareholders' meeting in April, according to the bank grapevine.

Currently vice chair and executive vice president for consumer lending, Arthur would replace Antonio Abacan Jr., Metrobank's president since 1993, who in turn would be named chair of the country's biggest bank. The ascensions would be triggered by the impending retirement of Metrobank founder/chair George SK Ty, who is turning 73 this year.

Despite his retirement, Ty, as chair emeritus, is still expected to be consulted on major decisions, much in the same way that fellow taipan John Gokongwei Jr. occasionally looks over the shoulder of his son Lance at the JG Summit Group.

Arthur, who turns 39 this year, would be the youngest president of the big three: BPI's Aurelio Montinola III is 55, while Equitable PCI Bank's Rene Buenaventura is 51.

With the appointment of the young Ty, all of the country's six taipans, save for Lucio Tan, shall have passed on to their children the day-to-day management of their conglomerates' crown jewels.

Toyota's new driver

EXPECT the industry lobby against parallel imports of used right-hand drive vehicles to have a stronger voice with the incoming president of Toyota Motors, Hiroshi Ito.

Before becoming shacho of Philippine operations, Ito was posted in New Zealand, whose limited automotive assembly industry collapsed

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

in the late '90s when the country of four million people not only reduced tariffs but opened its shores to second-hand car imports.

Ito is already in town, although he is set to formally assume the position on Feb. 1 from Nobuharu Tabata, who is returning to Japan after his record-breaking four-year assignment here to head Toyota's worldwide travel division.

Tabata is best remembered for having captained the local Toyota to four straight years of "triple crown" victory, capturing the highest total industry, passenger and commercial vehicles sales, as well as cementing Toyota's dominant market share at 37 percent.

The car, not the company

A NUMBER of newsmen thought that taipan Henry Sy Sr. had secretly acquired, or is in the process of acquiring, a stake in the struggling Mitsubishi when his son Hans joined the table of Mitsubishi Motors president Kengo Takase Wednesday during the unveiling of the new Galant 240M.

As it turned out, Hans had earlier seen Takase's new daily driver and took an instant liking to the car, especially when shown its interiors and rear passenger leg room.

Hans later sheepishly admitted that he had just bought a new transport, a Toyota Camry, but nevertheless said he had also been drawn to the new Galant by its "inconspicuous" looks. Whoops, that's not exactly flattering to the Galant's French designers.

Sinner is no Santos

FORMER Insurance Commissioner Benjamin Santos is protesting an Ombudsman report suggesting that he be invited for an interview "being the probable party of interest" in the anonymous complaint filed against his successor, Evangeline Crisostomo-Escobillo.

Santos said that during his short term he even advocated the current insurance consortium model for the comprehensive third-party liability coverage of motor vehicles.

Such a model, he said, even won the backing of Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board chair Elena Bautista.

Released last week, the Ombudsman report was signed by associate graft investigation officer 1 Famar Santos and reviewed by team leader Danilo Rimonte and acting director James Viernes.

Heard through the grapevine

THE AYALA executives now controlling the privatized Fort Bonifacio section have finished redrawing the central business district away from the original Metro Pacific blueprint, ostensibly to improve traffic flow and make the remaining empty lots within The Fort even more productive.

(Email: cocktales_pdi@pldtdsl.net or cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com)

PLDT unit buying 20% of Philweb

Terms of the deal, including price, under negotiation

By Clarissa S. Batino

PHILIPPINE LONG DISTANCE Telephone Co.'s technology arm is buying a 20-percent stake in Philweb Corp. in line with efforts to corner a chunk of the Internet gaming business via the telco's third-generation service offering.

ePLDT is buying 24 billion shares of Philweb. The two firms are still negotiating the selling price, but at Philweb's closing price yesterday of 3.1 centavos, the deal could cost P744 million.

Philweb is owned by the group of former trade secretary Roberto Ongpin, who also controls ISM Communications Inc. and Eastern Telecommunications Philippines Inc. Ongpin also owns Connectivity Unlimited Resources Inc., which was among those allowed by the government to offer 3G services.

The company is a niche player in Internet gaming and has been licensed by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. to operate Internet sports betting and Internet casino.

The firm's board approved the investment of ePLDT during a meeting Wednesday. The PLDT unit will buy the shares "from the resulting expanded capital" of Philweb.

Sources said PLDT was buying the stocks at a discount. "ePLDT will become a significant stockholder of Philweb. Thus, ePLDT will be entitled to nominate three directors to the board," said the PLDT unit in a statement.

Interest in Philweb stocks has been rising in the last two weeks.

From its year-end price of 1.5 centavos, Philweb's share price rose to 2.6 centavos on Jan. 20. Yesterday, the share price closed at 3.1 centavos. Trade volume has been hitting more than 1 billion shares.

The details of the investment in Philweb, including the price and the terms of the sale, are still under negotiations.

"Philweb is of interest to us because of our Internet-related businesses," a PLDT official said in an interview.

"Our investment philosophy is based on intrinsic strategic values of a company. We are not driven by market dynamics because we are long-term strategic investor," the PLDT official added.

Philweb currently offers Internet sports betting in over 300 Pagcor Internet stations nationwide. The company said it would soon start the roll-out of its Internet casinos.

Philweb went into Internet gaming in 2003. The Internet gaming global market is estimated to reach $14.5 billion this year.

ePLDT controls Netopia. It said it would start offering Instant Messaging, using the technology of NTT Communications Corp.

KING JAMES AUCTION CALENDAR
PULILAN AUCTION
REGISTRATION & VIEWING DATES: JAN. 27-28, 2006, 9:00AM - 5:00PM
SITE LOCATION: 333 OLD NATIONAL HIGHWAY, STO. CRISTO, PULILAN, BULACAN
AUCTION DATE: JANUARY 29, 2006 (SUN) 10:30AM
CONSISTING OF CANDY REDUCER MACHINE, CANDY COUNTER MACHINE W/ CONTROL PANEL, POLISHER, BELT CONVEYOR, POLISHING TOOLS, ROTARY TYPE SWAGING MACHINE, MOSLER VAULT, AQUARIUM GLASS, NARRA BAR COUNTER, ASSORTED STAINLESS/STEEL SCRAP, REFRIGERATED CLOSED VAN, STAINLESS TUB W/ ROLLER, ELECTRO PLATING MACHINE, ASSORTED WOODEN SCRAP, OFFICE PARTITION, OFFICE TABLES, WOODEN SHELVES, SOFA BED, COMPUTER SETS, CARPETS, PRINTER, COMPUTER MONITOR, PORTABLE SEWING MACHINE, ACOUSTIC GUITARS, BANNER FAUCETS, FIRE EXTINGUISHER, HARDWARES, KITCHENWARES, REFRIGERATOR, CABINET, JAPANESE DINING TABLE, WALL MIRROR, LADDER, MARBLE TABLE, TYPEWRITERS, HONDA GENERATOR 5KVA, WINDSHIELD FOR LITE ACE, NARRA CABINET, AUDIO CONTROLLER SWITCH, XEROX MACHINE, STEEL GONDOLA, DOUBLE DECK BED FRAME, PIANO ORGAN, LAPTOP, HOLLOW DOORS, AND MANY MORE.....
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First Gen lowers IPO price to P47/share

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

FIRST GEN CORP., A Filipino-controlled power producer going public next month, has lowered its offer price to P47 per share from the range of P51 to P62 set earlier, industry sources told the INQUIRER.

This is the second time First Gen tightened its IPO price. The original range was set at P51 to P74, which was reduced later to P51 to P62 per share.

First Gen yesterday filed an amended initial public offering (IPO) registration statement, containing the change in the price, with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

A source from the agency said the SEC had approved the amended registration statement during the commission en banc's meeting also yesterday.

Industry sources said that at P47 a share, First Gen's IPO was expected to generate strong investor interest.

The lowering of the IPO price was a result of First Gen's book-building exercise abroad and the feedback it got that investors wanted the price lowered, they added.

Local analysts had said that at P51-P62 a share, First Gen's price-earnings ratio was more expensive than other power producers in the region. The lower IPO price, however, was not a reflection of the company's performance, sources said.

They also said the shareholders of First Gen were no longer keen on selling their shares to the public but this could not be immediately confirmed with the company.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of January 26, 2006)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36.5	36.5	36	36	1,134,400
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58	58.5	58	58.5	1,700,800
China Banking Corp.	605	605	605	605	1,300
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	500
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	60.5	61	60	60	82,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	29.5	29	29.5	566,500
Philippine National Bank	32	32.5	32	32.5	4,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	6,000
Security Bank Corp.	36.5	37	36.5	37	1,048,800
Union Bank of the Phil.	31	31.5	31	31.5	39,400
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Bankard Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	3105	3120	3105	3120	130
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	30,000
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2100	2100	2095	2095	740
Ivantage Corp.	0.63	0.63	0.63	0.63	100,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49.5	49.5	48	49	1,813,300
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	13.75	13.75	13.75	60,500
Manila Electric Co. B	21.75	22	21.5	22	338,200
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	1,216,000
Petron Corp.	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.75	1,054,000
East Asia Power Res. Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.25	0.25	680,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.95	0.95	0.93	0.93	210,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	4,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.6	1,000
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	17,200
Jollibee Foods Corp.	38.5	38.5	37	37.5	674,500
RFM Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	257,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	63.5	62.5	63.5	133,800
San Miguel Corp. B	87	87	87	87	18,000
Universal Robina Corp.	20.25	20.25	19.5	19.75	569,700
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	200,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.34	1,310,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.02	1.22	1.02	1.22	25,996,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.4	4.5	4.4	4.5	152,000
CHEMICALS					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.68	0.68	0.68	0.68	50,000
Pryce Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.07	0.07	700,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.075	0.075	0.07	0.075	4,600,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	7,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	10	10.5	9.1	9.1	5,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.008	0.0085	101,000,000
Atok-Big Wedge. Inc. B	9.2	11.75	9.2	11.75	8,000
Ayala Corp.	330	330	327.5	327.5	55,150
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	150,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.8	4.8	4.75	4.75	425,000
Ajo Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	6,600,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.2	2.22	2.2	2.22	200,000
APC Group Inc.	0.23	0.235	0.23	0.235	410,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	3,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.88	0.88	0.87	0.87	600,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.96	2	1.94	1.96	237,000
ATN Holdings Inc. B	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	25,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.72	0.73	0.72	0.73	80,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.8	8.8	8.8	8.8	16,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.06	1.06	3,106,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.1	3.2	3.05	3.2	1,381,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.24	1.2	1.24	300,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.18	1.2	1.1	1.2	1,012,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	4.6	4.6	4.45	4.45	677,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.27	9,640,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.18	1.1	1.16	305,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	20,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	320,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,700,000
SM Investments Corp.	235	235	222	226	353,140
Unioil Res. & Holdings Co	0.065	0.0775	0.065	0.0675	13,000,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.11	0.11	2,340,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	6,001,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	20,000
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.02	1.02	895,000
Cityland Development Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.36	1.36	338,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.19	0.2	0.19	0.19	2,850,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.66	1.72	1.66	1.7	9,656,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	125,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.22	0.22	0.215	0.215	1,500,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.28	0.28	300,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.48	0.49	2,140,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	100,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.48	1.5	1.46	1.5	4,602,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	2,180,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.48	0.48	510,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. A	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	1,800,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.02	0.02	0.02	0.02	4,800,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.4	6,292,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	5,450,000
MRC Allied Ind. Inc.	0.12	0.125	0.12	0.125	550,000
Philippine Estates Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	390,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	6	6	6	6	22,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	1,700,000
SM Development Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	120,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.8	3,486,000
SERVICE					
MEDIA					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	12.5	12.5	12.25	12.25	31,500
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.91	0.92	1,750,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	755	745	750	18,580
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.35	3.35	180,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1800	1840	1800	1840	171,540
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.175	0.165	0.17	3,200,000
Imperial Res.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.011	4,900,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0575	0.0625	0.0575	0.0575	187,700,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	10,000
Philweb Corp.	0.03	0.033	0.029	0.031	1,583,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.9	1.94	1.9	1.9	615,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12	12.25	12	12.25	783,300
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.7	4,744,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	2,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	540,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	130,000
EDUCATION					
Centro Escolar University	9	9	9	9	149,000
Ipeople Inc.	3.05	3.05	3.05	3.05	256,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Easycall Phils. Inc.-Com	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5	10,000
Paxys Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.7	2,221,000
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.2	1.2	1.14	1.16	682,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.64	1.68	1.64	1.64	1,707,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	6.1	6.1	5.7	5.9	1,013,000
Benguet Corp. A	6.2	6.2	6.2	6.2	1,000
Benguet Corp. B	30	30	30	30	2,000
Dizon Copper Silver Mines	1.56	1.56	1.56	1.56	65,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.23	0.23	0.22	0.22	2,430,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.28	0.28	0.27	0.28	1,870,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	44,100,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	23,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.0065	0.006	0.006	184,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.44	1.46	1.42	1.42	2,077,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.18	2.28	2.18	2.22	12,727,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	25.5	26	285,900
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.195	0.195	0.19	0.19	110,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	34,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	20,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	480,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4.1	4.1	4	4	127,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series O	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Y	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Au	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	2,400
WARRANTS, PHIL. DEPOSIT RECEIPTS, ETC.					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(PUR)	12	12.25	12	12.25	45,700

CURRENCIES

January 26, 2006 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.816460	1.000000	52.5560
Japan	Yen	0.007053	0.008639	0.4540
United Kingdom	Pound	1.457054	1.784600	93.7914
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105260	0.128922	6.7756
Switzerland	Franc	0.646087	0.791327	41.5890
Canada	Dollar	0.710088	0.869716	45.7088
Singapore	Dollar	0.502963	0.616029	32.3760
Australia	Dollar	0.615268	0.753580	39.6052
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.166251	2.653224	139.4428
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.217717	0.266660	14.0146
Brunei	Dollar	0.501418	0.614137	32.2766
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000087	0.000107	0.0056
Thailand	Baht	0.020903	0.025602	1.3455
UAE	Dirham	0.222293	0.272264	14.309*
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.224800	64.3706
Argentina	Peso	0.268307	0.328623	17.271*
Brazil	Real	0.364491	0.446429	23.462*
Denmark	Kroner	0.134017	0.164144	8.626*
India	Rupee	0.018522	0.022686	1.192*
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.218072	0.267094	14.037*
Mexico	New Peso	0.077684	0.095147	5.000*
New Zealand	Dollar	0.559372	0.685119	36.007*
Norway	Kroner	0.124250	0.152182	7.998*
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013653	0.016722	0.878*
South Africa	Rand	0.135180	0.165568	8.701*
Korea	Won	0.000843	0.001033	0.054*
Sweden	Kroner	0.107741	0.131961	6.935*
Syria	Pound	0.015728	0.019264	1.012*
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025573	0.031322	1.646*
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000380	0.000466	0.024*

Goldilocks eyes Asian markets

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

GOLDILOCKS Bakeshop Inc., the country's leading bakeshop, is setting its sights on strategic markets in Asia within the next few years as part of its expansion program.

During the Good News Kapihan held yesterday at the Tavern On The Square in Makati, Goldilocks corporate communications manager Arle Delos Santos said Asian markets that looked promising to the specialty cakes maker were Singapore, Hong Kong, and Thailand.

Goldilocks operates 192 branches nationwide.

Delos Santos also said Goldilocks was adding between 15 and 20 branches this year, including one in Naga City, where the founders of Goldilocks are based.

Goldilocks USA, an affiliate of Goldilocks, meanwhile, plans to set up a new commissary on the East Coast of the United States to add to its existing commissary in California.

The commissary may cost roughly $1 million, she said.

Goldilocks USA runs 17 international branches, 16 in the United States and one in Vancouver, Canada.

Goldilocks traces its roots to a simple one-door apartment in a two-story structure at 2300 Pasong Tamo Street in Makati.

The founders had a simple vision: to produce high-quality, high-value, but affordable products. This has guided every aspect of the Goldilocks business for 40 years.

Real ...

From page B1

that investing in life insurance and other insurance products would always be more attractive than real estate, especially if properties were bought only as speculative investments.

"It is difficult to match [the asset price appreciation of] a real estate boom," Cuisia said. "But we know that real estate hasn't moved in the last 10 years, so [investors] have to decide which returns are better for them."

Cuisia's bearish view on the real estate sector contradicts the bullish assessment of property market players like Ayala Land president Jaime Ayala, who recently said that prices of properties developed by his firm have been rising by an average of 5 percent annually.

At the same time, Philam Plans president and CEO Jesus Hofileña said that buying an insurance policy offers distinct advantages over investing in real estate. One such advantage is the lower monthly amortization requirements.

Cuisia pointed out that insurance policies are also a "good way of transferring wealth between parents and their children" because there are no taxes involved–a fact that will appeal to the Filipino-Chinese community, he said.

"Proceeds from insurance products are tax-free," he said, noting that transferring property from parent to child in the form of inheritance involves substantial tax payment to the government.

PRULINK Investments of Variable Life Insurance Contracts	PRU LIFE U.K. Current Week Jan. 24, 2006	Last Week Jan. 17, 2006
Bond Fund - Peso	1.36326	1.37037
Managed Fund - Peso	1.48489	1.49742
Growth Fund - Peso	1.14672	1.16408
Bond Fund - US Dollar	1.2224	1.2187

* Note: These investments of variable life insurance contracts are not mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission

Investment Funds of Wealth Builder and Wealth Secure	UNIT PRICES (in Php) Jan. 23, 2006	Jan. 16, 2006
Fixed Income Fund	1.111185	1.113616
Balanced Fund	1.101716	1.104922
Equity Fund	1.081359	1.086321

These investment funds are specific to variable life insurance contracts and are not considered mutual funds. Life insurance products are regulated by the Insurance Commission.
The weekly unit prices are also available at www.insularlife.com.ph.

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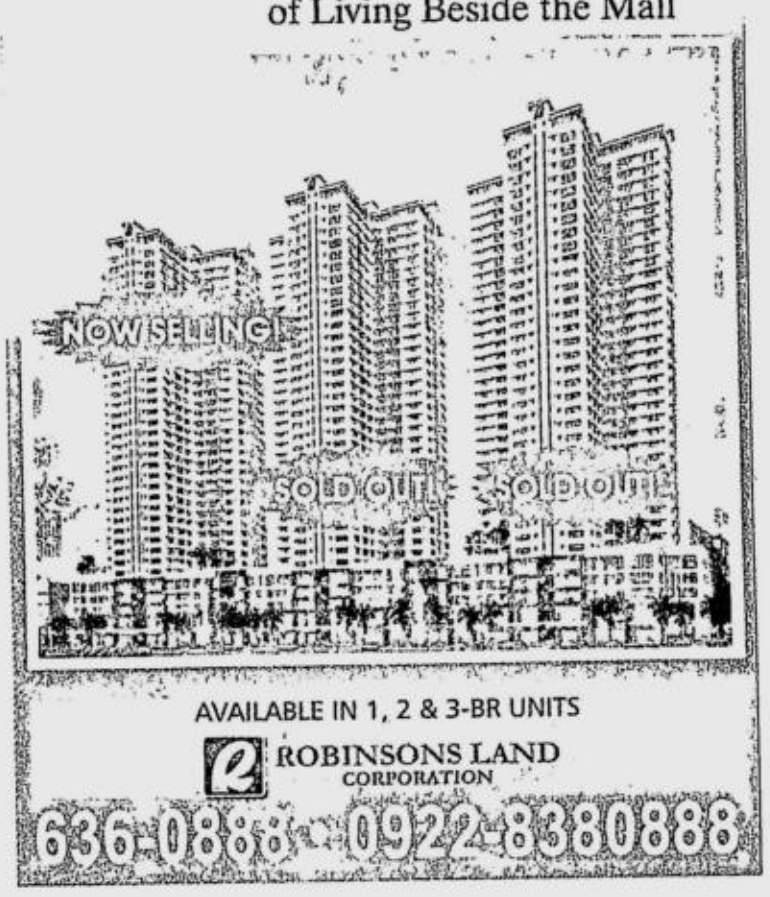

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Year Ended December 31, 2004

REVENUES	
Premiums - net of reinsurance	P 1,931,590,868
Investment and Other Income	219,950,031
	2,151,540,899
UNDERWRITING, CLAIMS AND POLICY BENEFITS	
Increase in legal policy reserves	573,021,133
Commission, bonuses and other agents expenses	466,624,490
costs of premiums of variable insurance	377,674,391
Dividends to policyholder	86,805,614
Claims	62,002,295
Insurance taxes, licenses and fees	58,450,936
	1,624,578,859
OPERATING EXPENSES	
Salaries, allowances and employee benefits	165,298,150
Depreciation and amortization	38,711,637
Other operating expenses	217,280,530
	421,290,317
NET INCOME	P 105,671,723

Audited by Laya Mananghaya & Co. (KPMG)

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PRU LIFE UK SETS EYES ON RECORD-BREAKING 10TH YEAR

Pru Life UK Philippines enters its tenth year on an upbeat note amid indications that the company performed better than expected in 2005.

Official figures, however, would not be available for quite sometime, the company said, as these have yet to be audited. But according to a company source, the figure could easily top earnings in 2004 when—for the first time in eight years of operation—the company chalked up more than P105 million in profits.

The numbers, the source said, point to a record year ahead: Admitted Assets grew 51% (compounded); First Year Premium income grew 86% (compounded) vs. the industry record of 9%; Total Premium grew 117% (compounded) vs. a 15% industry record.

In a statement, Bobby Madrid, Pru Life chief executive officer and president, said he was buoyed by the fact that the company achieved its growth targets in a year rocked by the damaging pre-need industry scandal and spiraling fuel prices that slowed the economy.

He attributed the company's strong performance to effective expense management, excellent persistency, efficient and compliant operations, and an innovative product line.

It helped tremendously, he added, that Pru Life pioneered variable life insurance, an investment-linked insurance product that has become a hit with Filipinos looking for a new wrinkle on life insurance as well as value-added benefits.

Madrid also cited the company's agency force which, according to him, has delivered consistently, generating record sales that catapulted Pru Life into the industry's Top Five as early as 2001.

To sustain the company's growth, Madrid said that he intends to continue building on the momentum gained over the past two years.

A major focus, he said, will be on enhancing the company's services further, to make Pru Life truly live up to its credo of "always listening and always understanding" people's needs.

The insurance veteran, who started Pru Life practically from scratch in 1996 and built it into a modern, innovative organization, said that 2006 promises to be even more exciting and challenging than last year.

Pru Life is part of the British life insurance giant, Prudential plc, which was founded more than 150 years ago in London, England. The company currently has 50 branches in 25 locations throughout the country.

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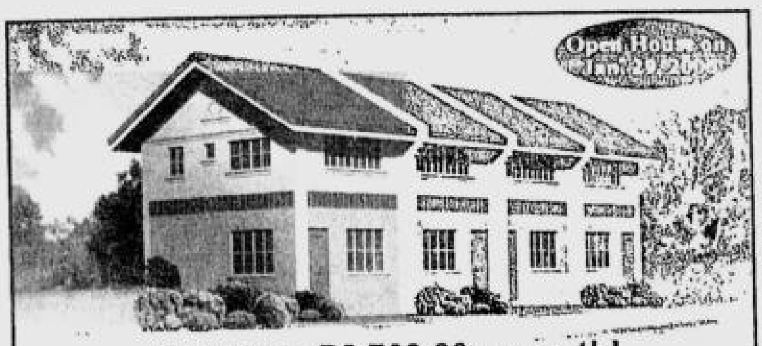

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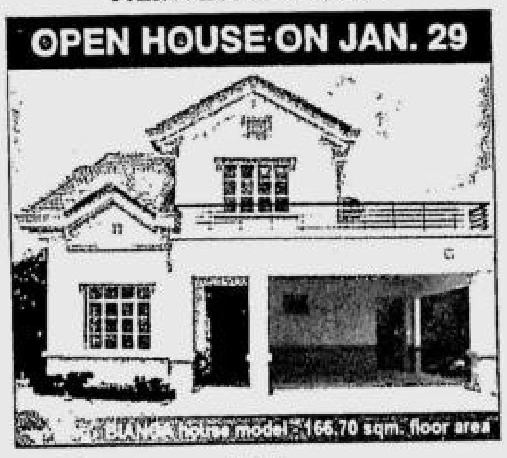

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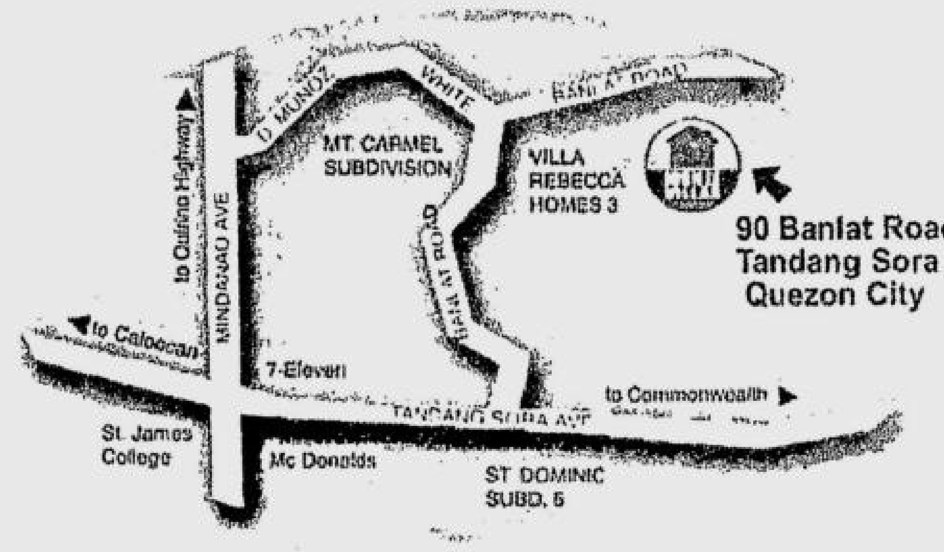

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	BULACAN					
1.	Blk. 23 Lot 43 Verde Heights Subd. Bgy. Gaya Gaya SJDM Bulacan	Rowhouse	26.00	40.00	226,600.00	with illegal occupant
2.	Blk. 23 Lot 49 Verde Heights Subd. Bgy. Gaya Gaya SJDM Bulacan	Rowhouse	26.00	40.00	216,700.00	
3.	Blk. 12 Lot 20 Verde Heights Subd. Bgy. Gaya Gaya SJDM Bulacan	Rowhouse	26.00	60.00	275,000.00	
4.	Blk. 22 Lot 30 Verde Heights Subd. Bgy. Gaya Gaya SJDM Bulacan	Rowhouse	26.00	60.00	282,000.00	with illegal occupant
5.	Blk. 6Lot 14 Town & Country Executive Village II, Meycauayan, Bulacan	Single detached	243.00	281.00	1,696,200.00	with illegal occupant
6.	Blk. 2 Lot 9 La Poblacion Bo. Parida Muzon, SJDM, Bulacan	Rowhouse	20.00	50.00	237,600.00	with illegal occupant/TCT for consolidation
7.	Blk. 3 Lot 3 Meyland Village II, Meycauyan Bulacan	Duplex	49.00	68.00	684,200.00	
8.	Blk. 64 Lot 12 Daisy St., Rocka Village, Ph. 5 Bgy. Tabang Plaridel Bulacan	Single detached	35.00	120.00	737,000.00	with illegal occupant
	RIZAL					
1.	Blk. 31 Lot 11 St. Paul St. La Mar Village, Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal	Rowhouse	27.00	38.00	224,400.00	with illegal occupant/TCT for consolidation
2.	Blk. 25 Lot 5 Rd. Lot 29 La Mar Village, Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal	Single attached	44.00	66.00	410,300.00	with illegal occupant/TCT for consolidation
3.	Blk. 30 Lot 35 Rd. Lot 39La Mar Village, Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal	Rowhouse	27.00	41.50	264,000.00	with illegal occupant/TCT for consolidation
4.	Blk. 30 Lot 53 St. Peter St.La Mar Village, Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal	Rowhouse	27.00	38.00	248,600.00	
5.	Blk. 27 Lot 3 St. Catherine St.La Mar Village, Guitnang Bayan, San Mateo, Rizal	Rowhouse	32.00	38.00	236,500.00	TCT for consolidation
6.	Blk. 5 Lot 2 Everlasting St. Cherryville Subd. Bo. San Isidro Taytay Rizal	Townhouse	49.00	49.00	445,500.00	TCT for consolidation
7.	Blk 9 Lot 5-A Amethst St., Goldriverville Rodriguez, Rizal	Single attached	41.00	74.00	513,700.00	with illegal occupant/TCT for consolidation
8.	Blk. 34 Lot 24 Antipolo Hills Bgy. San Luis Antipolo City	Single detached	29.50	120.00	484,000.00	with illegal occupant
9.	Blk. 78 Lot 22 Antipolo Hills Bgy. San Luis, Antipolo City	Single detached	29.50	120.00	524,700.00	with illegal occupant
10.	B13 L2 Peace Village Bgy.San Jose Antipolo City	House & Lot	36.00	80.00	176,000.00	TCT for consolidation
	CAGAYAN DE ORO					
1.	Blk. 2 Lot 21 Mindanao Homes Pagatpat, Cagayan de Oro City	Single attached	30.00	69.00	154,000.00	with caretaker
2.	Blk. 8 Lot 9 Mindanao Homes Pagatpat, Cagayan de Oro City	Single attached	30.00	72.00	157,300.00	

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PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

AUCTION SALE. Unredeemed Pledges Expiry Date Dec. 31, 2005 on Feb. 5, 2006 9:00am at Santiago Pawnshop Pob. Sta. Maria Bulacan. Auctioneer - Atty. Sta. Ana

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late MA. TERESA C. SANTIAGO has been extra-judicially settled among her heirs before Notary Public DANILO B. BAÑARES as per Doc. No.51307, Page No.83, Book No.102 Series of 2006. (PDI-Jan. 13, 20 & 27, 2006)

NOTICE OF LOSS

Pecton Mercantile Inc. (#15 Gilmore Ave. QC) O.R. w/S.N. 94701-50 (unused #94715-50) was lost on Jan. 9, 2006. Unauthorized use of said O.R. will not be honored (PDI-Jan.23,25&27,2006)

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Our dearest mother,

Marcita Veridiano Uy

Has joined our late father,
Brig. General Antonio P. Uy
and our Lord on January 19, 2006
at the age of 84.

WE, the bereaved children: **Antonio "Sonny" Uy Jr., Jose "Chito" Uy, Glenn Paul "Glenny" Uy, Socorro "Corrito" Perrins, Milagros "Mila" Garcia, Irene Marceliana "Irma" Besa, Ronald "Ronnie" Uy, Ferdinand "Fedie" Uy**; our spouses, children and grandchildren, and our mother's sisters: **Leonor Teofilo** and **Lydia Tozer**, request our relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains will lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel in Guadalupe from January 28 to 30. Requiem mass and eulogy will be on January 30, Monday at 7:30 p.m. Interment at Loyola Memorial Park Parañaque will be on January 31 at 10 a.m.

(Please omit flowers and mass cards.)

"Mama Mars and Papa Tony, embraced by Divine Providence, are dancing, and their laughter rings, awaiting our communion in Glory, for that grand reunion..."

We remember with deep love and affection

SALVADOR "DOY" LAUREL

Once Vice President of the Philippines

On his second death anniversary
January 27, 2006

*We, his wife, **Celia**; children, grandchildren, brother and sisters invite you to join us in prayer for the eternal repose of his soul.*

Masses will be celebrated in the following churches:

BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, *Batangas City*	7:00 AM
BASILICA OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION, *Manila Metropolitan Cathedral Basilica, Intramuros, Manila*	7:30 AM
CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST, *Tanauan City, Batangas*	6:15 AM
CENTER FOR PEACE, *Lopez-Rizal St., Mandaluyong City*	12:15 AM
DIVINE WORD MISSION SEMINARY *(CHRIST THE KING) E. Rodriguez Sr. Blvd., Quezon City*	6:30 AM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, *San Agustin Church, Intramuros*	6:30 AM
IMMACULATE CONCEPTION PARISH, *Pasig City*	6:00 AM
OUR LADY OF REMEDIES PARISH, *Malate, Manila*	7:00 AM
MARY THE QUEEN PARISH, *Madison St., Greenhills West, San Juan, Metro Manila*	7:00 AM
MINOR BASILICA OF THE BLACK NAZARENE, *Plaza Miranda*	7:00 AM
MINOR BASILICA AND NATIONAL SHRINE OF SAN LORENZO RUIZ, *Binondo, Manila*	7:30 AM
NUESTRA SENORA DE GUIA PARISH, *Ermita, Manila*	8:00 AM
OUR LADY OF MT. CARMEL SHRINE PARISH, *Quezon City*	7:00 AM
OUR LADY OF PERPETUAL HELP PARISH, *Cubao, Quezon City*	6:30 AM
OUR LADY OF THE PILAR, *Las Pinas*	6:00 AM
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO, *Forbes Park, Makati*	6:15 AM
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE, *Greenhills, Mandaluyong*	7:15 AM
SHRINE OF MARY QUEEN OF PEACE, *EDSA cor Ortigas Avenue*	6:30 AM
SAN ILDEFONSO PARISH, *Makati City*	6:00 AM
STA. CRUZ PARISH, *Sta. Cruz, Manila*	6:15 PM
SAINT FRANCIS OF ASSISI PARISH CHURCH, *Mandaluyong City*	7:00 AM
ST. ANDREW THE APOSTLE PARISH, Bel Air II, *Makati City*	6:30 PM
ST. JOHN BOSCO PARISH, *Makati City*	6:30 AM
ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER PARISH, *Palanan, Makati City*	6:00 PM
ST. JUDE SHRINE, *San Miguel, Manila*	6:00 AM/6:00 PM
ST. VINCENT DE PAUL PARISH, *Ermita, Manila*	6:30 AM
STELLA ORIENTIS CHAPEL, *Pasig City*	7:45 AM/12:05 PM

MARCELA ULITA ADARME

Peacefully joined our Creator and his husband
SEGUNDINO COSUNDIAN ADARME
of Aparri Cagayan

on January 24, 2006 at the age of 85.

Her loving children **PACITA, DELFINA & GERRY TEE, ADELA & HERBERT ANG, VICENTE & MILAGROS E. CO, ANGELES, SEGUNDINO, JR., ROBERT**; grandchildren and other relatives request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, 12 G. Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on January 28, 2006 (Saturday), at the Himlayang Pilipino Memorial Park, Novaliches, Quezon City, after the 7:00 a.m. Mass at the Arlington Memorial Chapels.

We, design obituaries for free.

Suscipe me, Domine, secundum eloquium tuum et vivam,
Et non confundas me ab expectatione mea. – Ps. 118, (119), v. 116

PAX

DOM BENITO AGUNDAY TABLIZO, O.S.B.

A monk of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, Manila, strengthened by the sacraments, died on January 25, 2006 at the age of 82, in the 56th year of his monastic profession.

The **Rt. Rev. Tarcisio Ma. H. Narciso, O.S.B.** and the Monks of the Abbey of Our Lady of Montserrat, his brothers and sisters: **Josefa** and **Julio Manantan, Felicito Tablizo, Rose** & **Isabelo Urmatam, Catalina** and **Pedro Almedilla, Teresita** and **Rosaleo Surrera, Beda**; in-laws, nieces, nephews, and other relatives, and his fellow workers, administrators, faculty, and service personnel of San Beda College, request their friends to join them in their prayers for his eternal rest.

His remains lie in state at the Abbey Church. The Office of the Dead will be celebrated for him today, Friday, January 27. The Funeral Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, January 28 at 10:30 in the morning at the Abbey Church, after which his remains will be cremated at the Loyola Memorial Chapels and Crematorium, Edsa cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City. His ashes will be reposed at the Abbey Cemetery.

"...absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
— 2 Corinthians 5:8

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CLASSIFIEDS

RP's largest call center recruits agents in Zamboanga City

THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST CALL CENTER AND OUTSOURCING firm has gone to Zamboanga City in search of call center agents to complement its expansion program in the Philippines, the Department of Labor and Employment (Dole).

A report reaching Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas said that representatives from the Cyber City Teleservices Limited (CCTL) have come to Zamboanga City to recruit female call center agents to fill up additional manpower requirements for its outsourcing operations.

CCTL is a leading provider of customer relationship management (CRM) services and solutions including inbound and outbound offshore call center and business process outsourcing (BPO) services based in New Jersey and California, USA.

Today, CCTL is the largest CRM call center in the Philippines employing almost 5,000 agents for its operations at Clark Special Economic Zone in Pampanga and its affiliate G-Com Limited in Davao City.

Sto. Tomas said that CCTL representatives interviewed applicants in Zamboanga City last Jan. 18-20. Those who would pass the interview would be trained and sent either to their call centers in Pampanga and Davao. The recruitment was held at the Zamboanga City-based Public Employment Service Office (Peso).

The Dole chief added that the CCTL representatives planned to return to Zamboanga City in February and March to recruit more call center agents.

"This is an indication of the expanding call center industry in the country," she said.

Sto. Tomas said that amidst the ongoing political noise, the country remains a favorite destination of many American call center and outsourcing firms due to the Filipinos' affinity with the American English language and culture.

A study in 2004 said that the country ranked sixth in offshore location attractiveness index and the fourth choice location in Asia preceded by India, China, and Malaysia.

Currently, there are more than 50 contact center outsourcing providers in the Philippines. More call center and BPO firms are projected to set up operations in the country due to its cost-efficient, flexible, and trainable manpower.

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NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R A Act No 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **Crescencia Velasco Ong** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **MARIETTA** to **CRESENCIA** in the birth certificate **Marietta Velasco Ong** who was born on **June 15, 1956** at **Manila** and whose parents are **xx n/a** and **Maria Velasco**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition with this Office not later than **February 8, 2006**

(Sgd.) **SUSANA V. DIAZ**
City/Municipal Civil Registrar

(PDI--Jan. 27 & Feb. 3, 2006)

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BUSINESS

EU helps RP penetrate European market

By Michelle V. Remo

THE EUROPEAN UNION HAS extended to the Philippines a grant worth 3.5 million euros (about P223 million) to help Philippine products penetrate the European market.

The grant was extended amid the declining volume of Philippine exports to Europe since the late 1990s, when the latter imposed strict import standards that exporters found difficult to comply with.

"In our opinion, these rules are reasonable, and we are not relaxing them. But we will help Filipino exporters comply with the rules," Luc Vandebon, charge d' affaires of the European Commission's delegation to the Philippines, said yesterday in a press briefing after the launching of the Trade Related Technical Assistance.

The TRTA will have counterpart funding from the Philippine government worth 420,000 euros (P26 million), to complete the program cost of 3.9 million euros (P249 million).

Representatives from the EU and the Philippine government said the technical assistance would cover seminars and workshops related to enhancing the Philippines' trade capabilities.

One would be on improving the knowledge of exporters and concerned government agencies on the importation rules and regulations imposed by the EU.

Another would be on developing the trade facilitation capabilities of the Bureau of Customs.

The grant will likewise help concerned government agencies, like the Customs, the Bureau of Fisheries and the Philippine Coconut Authority, purchase the needed technology to enhance their services to Philippine exporters.

The program will run from January this year to December 2007.

Developing countries like the Philippines have aired disappointment over the "stringent" requirements imposed by EU member-countries on exports to the European market.

The requirements have been referred to as non-tariff barriers that hinder fair trade.

One sector that has been badly affected by stringent sanitary and phytosanitary requirements of the EU was the Philippine coconut industry.

Deputy Administrator Arturo Liquete of the Philippine Cocounut Authority said the Philippines exported 500,000 metric tons of copra to Europe in 1994.

The figure had consistently dropped over the years until it reached only 14,000 metric tons in 2004.

The decline had to do with the EU's requirement that the level of aflatoxin in food products should not exceed 20 ppb (parts per billion).

Liquete said many copra exporters could not comply with the requirement.

Aflatoxin levels in copra produced in Davao, where most of Philippine copra comes from, range from 50 to 100 ppb.

A high level of aflatoxin, which comes from moisture, has been said to be carcinogenic.

BDO seeks quick end to dispute over EPCIB

By Doris C. Dumlao

BANCO DE ORO UNIVERSAL Bank is willing to buy the shares of those opposed to its plan to merge with Equitable PCIBank "at a reasonable price" to resolve the dispute among shareholders.

In a chance interview yesterday during the launching of BDO's electronic banking center in SM Mall Makati, bank president Nestor Tan also said that the Jan. 31 deadline set by BDO for EPCIBank shareholders to accept a merger proposal could be extended.

"We're open (to an extension) if they (the shareholders) think it's something worthwhile," Tan said.

Tan, however, said he could not comment on the possibility of BDO improving its offer for the shares.

"I think our offer is reasonable," Tan said.

BDO had proposed to swap up to 1.6 of its shares for every EPCIB share.

As a second option, BDO also offered to base the swap ratio on the book values of both banks to be assessed by an independent accounting firm, using International Accounting Standards.

"If you look closer, there's no price. It's a moving target," said Tessie Sy, former BDO chair and the SM group's lead board representative in EPCIB.

In a separate interview, Sy said improving BDO's offer price would be one way to resolve the matter.

But she could not say for sure if that was an option.

"I'm exasperated. It's just an offer, so it's up to the board whether they'll take it up or not," Sy said.

The state-owned Government Service Insurance System, which has vehemently opposed BDO's merger proposal, has put on the auction block its own 90.07 million shares in EPCIBank at a starting price of P92 each or P8.3 billion.

The offer, valid until March 6, priced the shares at a 53-percent premium over EPCIB's closing price yesterday of P60.

The SM Group is the single biggest stockholder of EPCIB, with a 34-percent stake accumulated from the open market and the buyout of the Go family last year.

GSIS, which owns 12.4 percent, and the Romualdez group which holds 8 percent of EPCIB, have rejected the merger proposal.

On the other hand, the Social Security System, which holds the swing vote with a 29-percent stake, said it was willing to study the offer.

To consummate the merger, the Sy group needs the consent of two-thirds or 67 percent of EPCIB shareholders.

"In any business, there should be discussions. It's just a proposal, so it's up to them," Sy said.

Meanwhile, Tan said BDO was not interested in any other bank at the moment.

"I think we have enough with the UOB (United Overseas Bank) integration, the branches coming from that," he said.

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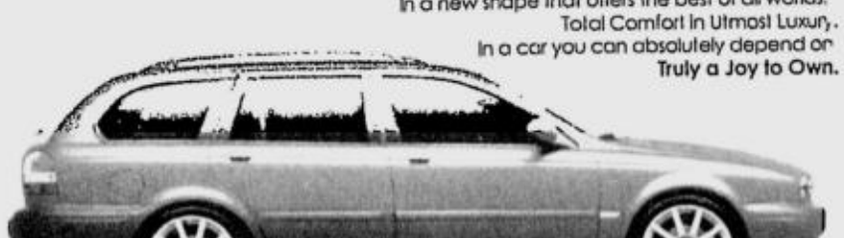

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BUSINESS Friday

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Business Features Editor Margie Quimpo-Espino

THE COMMUNIST country has been the darling of foreign investors over the past decade but figures show its competitiveness has been slipping.

Sell a country the way China markets itself

By Karen V. De Asis
Contributor

IN 2002, CHINA WAS THE FIRST country since the '80s to attract more FDIs than the United States at $53.2 billion compared with the $52.7 billion that flowed into the US.

Based on a report by the Institute of Management Development (IMD) in its 2005 World Competitiveness Yearbook, China ranks second to the US in inward direct investment flows at $62 billion. This, however, accounts only for 3.76 percent of the country's GDP.

Since 2000, China ranked No. 24 in world competitiveness, but slipping in 2001, 2003 and recently in 2005 to ranking 26, 29 and 31 respectively. World competitiveness is determined by four factors: economic performance, government efficiency, business efficiency and infrastructure.

What makes China tick ahead of its many neighboring Asian countries despite its 1.3 billion population? A great deal lie in the country's business and marketing strategies that include:

Clarity of the national government's marketing direction to encourage FDIs at local regional level. This direction comes from the national five-year economic development plan. The new national five-year economic plan took effect Jan. 1, 2006. This would be China's 11th "five-year plan" since 1953. What is striking is China's near perfect effort to cascade its directions to the local regional level. Other than national media, the local regional Chinese government partners with private publications disseminate new economic policies and business incentives like the China Briefing, (40,000 circulation) complementary publication mounted with consulting firm Dezan Shira and Associates and distributed in hotels, cafés and public areas frequented by foreign business people.

FDI benefits are substantiated and implemented. Due to the stepped up implementation of WTO agreements made with China beginning 2006, many of the

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TEAK BISTRO at the Power Plant Mall

How Beaver can 'Teak' your palate

BEAVER Lopez

BEAVER LOPEZ'S NAME became part of national consciousness when he married deposed President Joseph Estrada's daughter, Jackie. Beaver's family is equally known, being the son of Meralco chair Manuel Lopez and first cousin of ABS-CBN top guy Gabby Lopez.

With the diverse business of Beaver's family—broadcasting, telecommunications, publishing, energy, utility services—it is no surprise he has taken an entrepreneurial route.

Among other things, this young scion handles an insurance agency, Power Bikes (a bike shop in Rockwell Drive) and a trading business.

A year and a half ago, he went into the food business. In mid-2003, the management of the Rockwell Power Plant Mall, owned also by the Lopez family, told Beaver about a recently vacated space in their restaurant row. Sensing that the timing was right in the market, he opened Teak Bistro.

In its early days, Teak Bistro became a crowd favorite. But the crowd soon wandered into other pastures, leaving Beaver with the dilemma of closing shop or re-inventing Teak to adapt to customers' changing needs. Focusing on this prime location in the restaurant strip, he realized that he needed a strong food product to draw in the customers. It was at this moment that Chef Ed Quimson approached Beaver offering his services to re-creating Teak's menu.

Leaving the menu concept in Ed's capable chef's hands, Beaver focused on the changes that needed to be done with the interiors. Although Teak was still in prime condition, he foresaw that the "bar" ambiance would have to go. In its stead rose a warmer, more approachable look with beige hues on the walls and in their plush and comfortable chairs. A glass barrier was installed in the kitchen area, converting it into an exhibition kitchen for all to see the culinary action behind the scenes. The old wine cave area was converted into an extension of the kitchen to showcase the signature desserts of Teak. All the changes brought were meant to proffer a more casual and relaxing ambiance for dining.

On the menu side, Beaver was presented with a menu created by not one, but five chefs, since Ed Quimson had wasted no time in assembling an array of culinary talents. Teaming up with him were Heny Sison, Jane Paredes, Jill Sandique and Dundee Magallanes, who collaborated combining their specialties and presenting a menu that reflected their totally unique culinary synergy.

In running the restaurant, Beaver immersed himself totally into the management side of the business by learning the ropes. In this case, it meant doing inventory management, analyzing food cost impact on the bottom line, maintaining service levels and even the minute details of cleanliness. Normally very shy, Beaver had to overcome this in this people-oriented arena. Fortunately, his other businesses prepared him for just that. Now it is quite the norm to see Beaver presiding over staff meetings or dealing with various personnel matters.

Teak Bistro certainly fills Beaver with pride, as he expounds on the uniqueness of this bistro. "Having five chefs create our menu is something that has never been done before. Some would argue that Teak then has no definite cuisine. But I find that having no theme helps broaden our offerings, as we are not limited by borders."

Since it re-opened in November 2005, Teak has had a lot of first-time walk-in clients. Beaver happily states that they were all pleased with their choices ranging from pizzas, desserts, or bar chows. The affordable bistro prices also add to their smiles, as generous servings make Teak a good deal.

But it is the menu that Beaver is especially proud of, having sampled every dish on it. "We had to make sure that every item is good before we served it to the guest."

Beaver himself picked out food items he would love to eat for lunch and dinner. Lunch is comprised of their tenderly flavorful Teak Salpicao with garlic rice, finished off with slice of New York cheesecake and a cup of their Teak-blend brewed coffee. For dinner, Beaver would choose a simple Salad Nicoise, pre-order his rich Jambalaya rice and savory chicken in a pot. He also mentions the one menu item that he contributed, Teak Spring Rolls (a crunchy delicacy flavored with smoked fish) which is based on his wife Jackie's recipe.

"We believe in our product and the food we are dishing out. The only thing we can add is for everyone to try out the new Teak Bistro and experience what we have to offer," Beaver ends.

Teak Bistro will be offering Sunday breakfast from 7 a.m. to 10 a.m. with Filipino, Continental and American selections. Daily specials will be offered soon and a Valentine's promo is in the works.

Shane Gee, Contributor

Siblings setting graphics trend in Singapore

By Vincent Cabreza
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

BAGUIO CITY—SIBLINGS SHEILA and Norman Adefuil have been setting the trend in innovative publishing in Singapore ever since Sheila's firm, Creative Addictions, pushed their free-circulated "Trigger" magazine to the young Singaporean market in 1995.

"Trigger" was a hip journal of teenagers' partying, newest fads and hangouts. This was presented in a loud, frenetic layout that has become the signature of 35-year-old Sheila, who earned the reputation as one of Singapore's best art directors, and 37-year-old Norman, who designed each page.

Homegrown Singaporean firms tried to follow their lead, but all they managed to pull was Norman, who agreed to be pirated to a competitor when "Trigger" suddenly folded up in 2000.

This year, the siblings are back together to introduce a free-circulated children's magazine to the Singaporean market, using the same graphics-heavy, visually stunning Euro-trash and Japanese designs.

"Snacks," which came out with their second edition in December 2005, is being published by the Adefuils' new imprint, The Ark Project.

"We wanted to go back and use the 'Trigger' brand [and the firm 'Creative Addictions,'] but we were stymied by legal issues. 'Trigger' was the first magazine to circulate for free because it relied on advertising, and we managed to eat up the promotional budgets slated for veteran publications in Singapore," Norman said.

Although he won't confirm the rumors, Norman said the industry there was convinced their competition pressured advertisers to back out from the "Trigger" account.

For a Filipino who is transplanted to Singapore, investing in a small publishing venture requires monthly infusions of 20,000 Singaporean dollars (P600,000) to keep it afloat, Norman said.

Sheila was the only Filipino to brave the publishing hazards of Singapore amid a large population of Filipino artists now based in that state, Norman said.

Most Filipinos are valued highly for their creativity, but few manage "to flee the shadow cast by their employers, which are usually highly-advanced and popular companies," he said.

SINGAPORE-BASED graphics artist Norman Adefuin works using free association techniques. EV ESPIRITU

As publishers, the Adefuils also had to confront the stark reality about Filipino working habits. "We were a Filipino company which could not hire Filipinos because we are notorious for being late. I know because I was also laid back. But I had to work within a system that demands timely submissions of a contracted work, or face a court suit. So I shaped up," Norman said.

It was Singapore's appreciation of Filipino craftsmanship, which drew the Adefuils to the island.

"My oldest sister Teresa [now surnamed Chan] was the first to make Singapore her home where she is a lawyer, and we all followed her lead. Sheila was immediately drawn to publishing after she finished three years of mass communications courses in Singapore, and a final term in Australia. I studied multimedia art in [a Singapore university]," Norman said.

The sibling's Singaporean training helped them develop an affinity for conceptual art, and a reliance on free association.

They decided to name their children's magazine "Snacks" because "you cannot imagine snacks without children or children without snacks," Norman said.

Philips Electronics posts 2005 net income

DUTCH ROYAL PHILIPS ELECTRONICS posted full-year net income of 2.868 billion euros (P172 billion) at yearend, compared to the 2.836 billion euros (P170 billion) reported for 2004.

Its fourth quarter net income reached 332 million euros (P19.9 billion), compared to 498 million euros (P29.8 billion) generated in the corresponding period of affiliated companies and the advancement of a tax charge related to TSMC.

Philips president and chief executive officer Gerard Kleisterlee said in a statement: "On the back of a strong product lineup, we accelerated growth and increased profitability. We also executed our management agenda for the year, making Philips a more focused group, able to deliver a consistent performance while continuing its transformation into a market-driven healthcare, lifestyle and technology company."

Philips is among the world's top three hospital equipment makers and Europe's biggest consumer electronics producer and third largest in semiconductors. It is also the world's biggest lighting manufacturer.

Sell a country the way China markets itself

From page B2-1

CHINA'S efforts to attract investors extend to the national and local government, marketing paraphernalia, education and the tax system.

restrictions on domestic market access has been lifted. Export quota requirements from joint venture companies have been relaxed, wholly formed foreign owned enterprise (WFOE) can now operate even in once restricted distribution and service segments, trading rights are more flexible, tariffs and tariff barriers are lower, etc. For example, Pudong in Shanghai has become one of China's fastest growing commercial areas. The Chinese government aims to further expand the area's growth by establishing Lujiazhu as a financial center, Zhangjiang as a technology center while further developing the Waigaoqiao free trade zone and other investment zones.

Some of the benefits extended to new foreign owned enterprises include a corporation tax rate of 15 percent for manufacturing firms. If the business operation is more than 10 years, the first two years will be a tax holiday and the company will pay only 50 percent of the normal rate from the third to the fifth year of operation. Should the company qualify as an advanced technology manufacturing company, the firm is extended the 50 percent reduced tax scheme until the eighth year of operation. In some cases, Pudong offers added financial subsidies including cash rebates from taxes paid, office rental and research expense subsidies to some industries that include logistics companies, research and development organizations, reputable professional service firms and other high technology companies.

Continuous improvement of backroom support systems. Truthfulness of a marketing claim can only be achieved in large part through the efficiency of skills, infrastructure and technology. China has consistently kept low labor rates while providing government subsidies in the basic needs of its local people. On the other hand while it keeps its labor rates low, nevertheless, it improves the skills of its people and invests heavily in education and skills improvement, technology and infrastructure.

The country is seriously improving its secondary, tertiary and post-graduate educational institutions. Many of China's post-graduate schools have partnerships with Ivy League schools, European and North American institutions worldwide to provide local Chinese with management expertise, having recognized management as a weak area. Thus, China is quickly expanding its pool of technical and management talent.

In 2001 alone, China graduated a million technicians and engineers, rising to two million in 2003 and higher in succeeding years. The quality of engineering training has risen in the recent years resulting in fewer Chinese studying overseas for a degree in engineering.

Quick to adapt to customer preferences is one way of strengthening *guanxi* (positive relationships). In the early years of China's opening up to free markets, foreign firms can only enter China through an equity joint venture (EJV) with a well-connected Chinese partner. This has brought tremendous pressure on foreign principals due largely to inconsistency of goals between the two partners. Chinese principals are after providing work for its labor force while enforcing export consumption and not domestic consumption; while foreign management is keen on operational efficiencies and stimulating local market demand.

In 1996, through the counsel of Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping, China has become quite responsive to providing investors with alternatives to entering China, one of which is to look into an WFOE (wholly foreign owned enterprise) option. As Deng Xiaoping put it, "I'm afraid the opportunity may be lost. If we do not seize it, it will slip away."

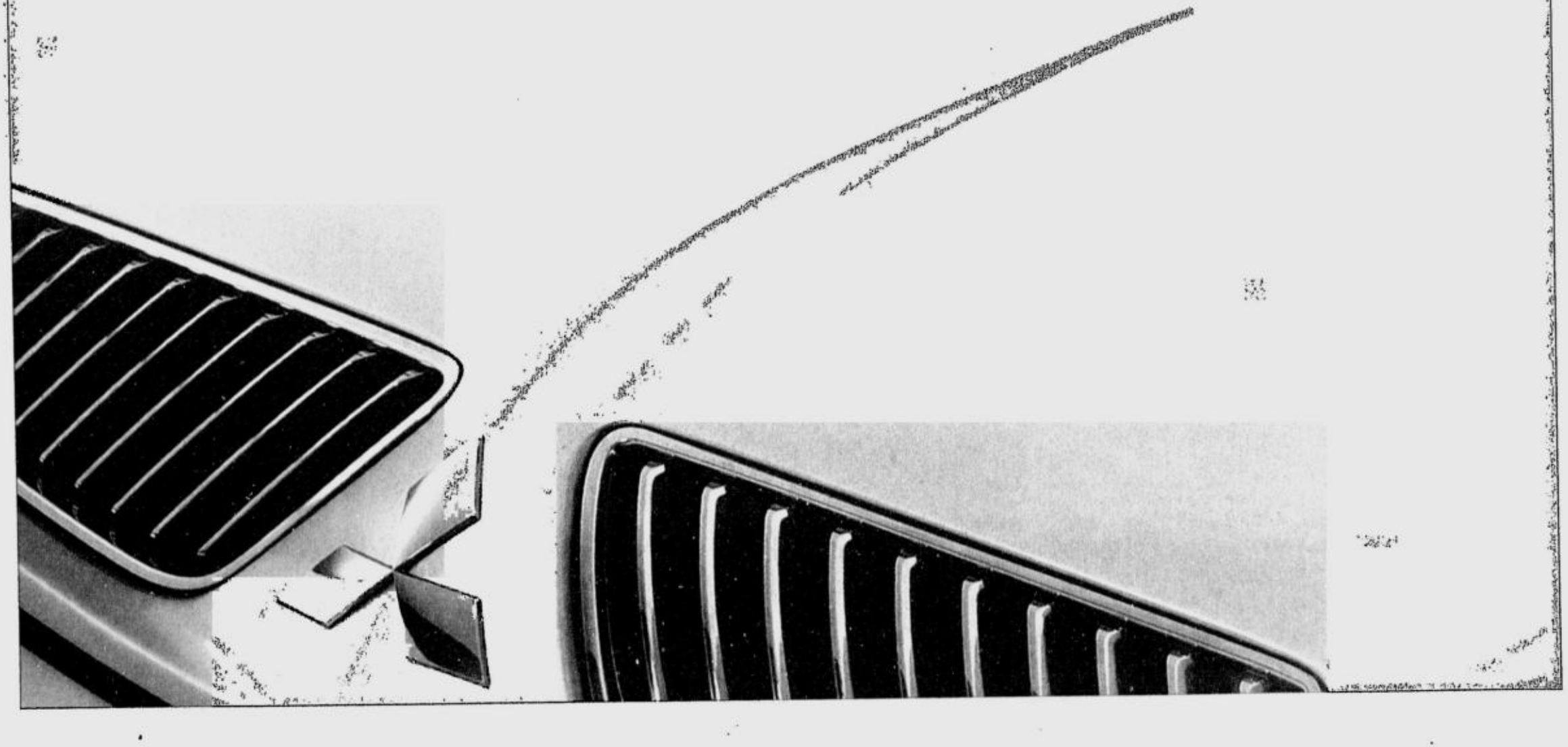
China's one vision, clear roadmap from simply providing world labor to building national then global brands. In its early stage of economic reform, China was clear about providing jobs for its huge labor force while consequently creating awareness for its production capability and output by enforcing equity joint ventures (EJVs) to export the output rather than allow foreign principals to simply feed on the local market's domestic consumption. Hence, unknown to many, the roadmap to establishing awareness for China-made products has been seeded. The price was too stiff for other foreign principals with appetites for the local market. It was not until after 1996 that China became ready for the WFOE.

Today, China is onto its second stage for originating China-made products and services—building China-conceptualized, China-made products and services into national brands and global brands thereafter. Some have made it globally like Li-ning (sportswear), Haier (home appliances), TCL (television and mobile phones), Legend (motherboard), Galanz (microwave), Huawei (telecommunications), etc.

China is a huge market with many faces. Each face represents one local region, with its set of uniqueness and competitive advantages. Yet, China is on the road to maximizing these faces—building strong, local regional muscle much like company SBUs (strategic business units) and powerful multi brands.

Feedback at kdeasis@skyinet.net or www.karendeasis.com.

If you've just bought a luxury sedan,
you may wish to skip the next three pages.



The all-new Mitsubishi Ga

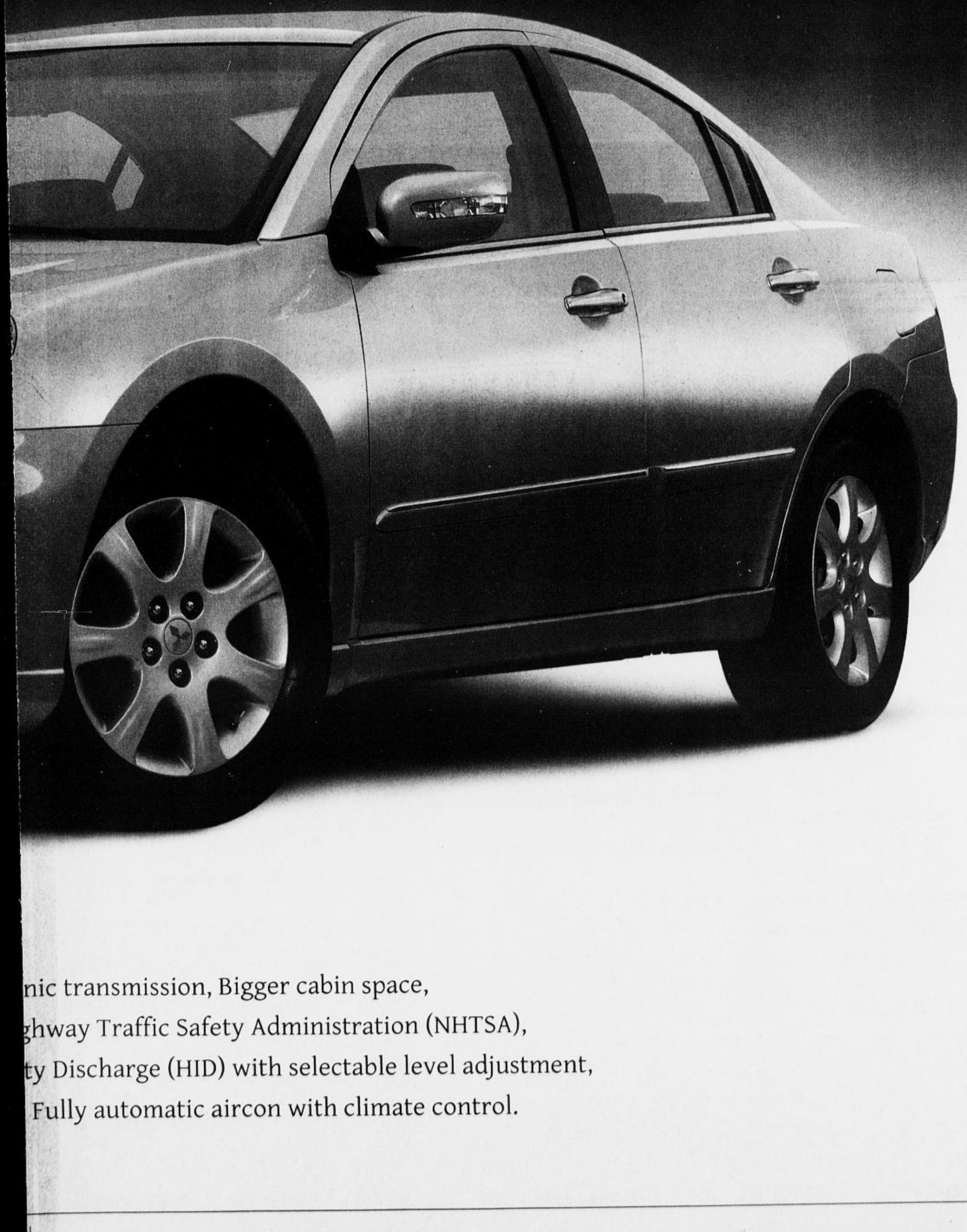
2.4 MIVEC Engine, INVECS II Sportro

5-star crash test rating by the US National Hig

Quad headlamps with auto-on feature, High Intensi

Electroluminescent instrumentation cluster,

alant 240M is finally here.



nic transmission, Bigger cabin space,
ghway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA),
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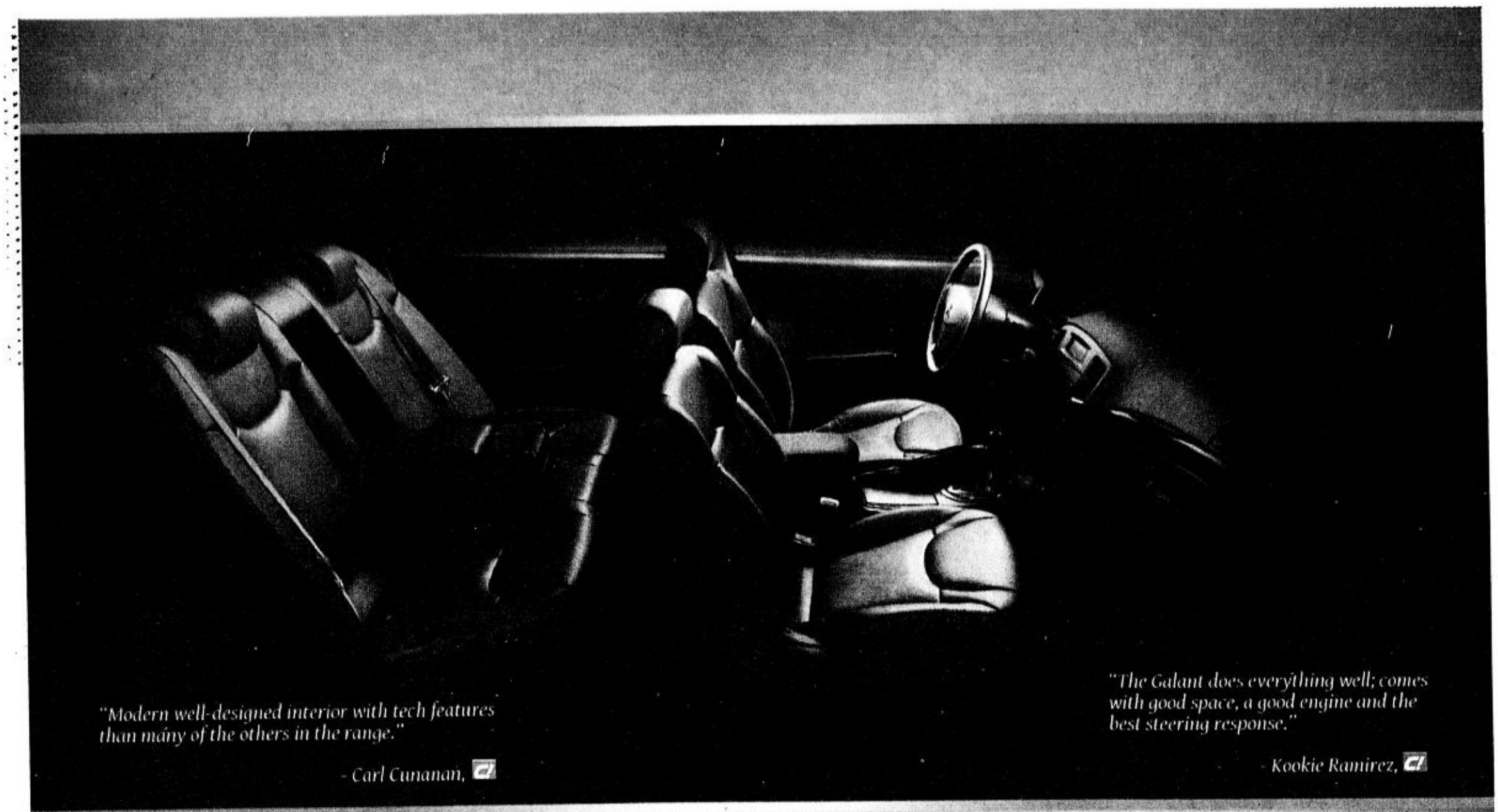
Fully automatic aircon with climate control.



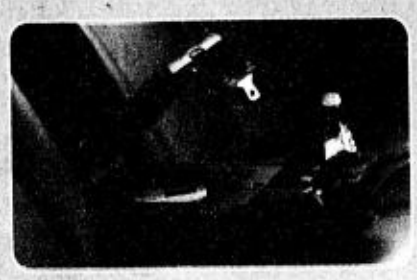
"Modern well-designed interior with tech features than many of the others in the range."

- Carl Cunanan,

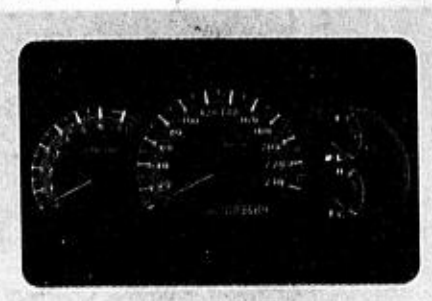
"The Galant does everything well; comes with good space, a good engine and the best steering response."

- Kookie Ramirez,

Invecs-II 4-A/T with Sportronic



Rear Seat Armrest with Cup Holder & Compartment



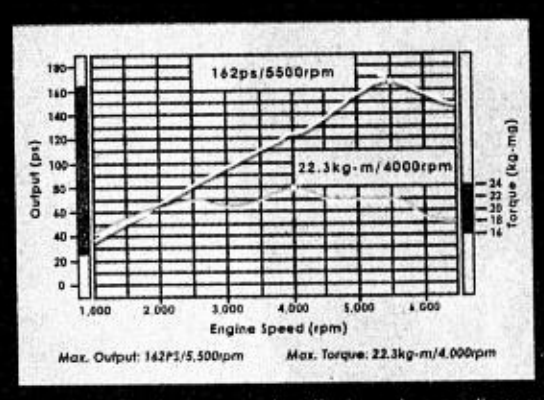
Electroluminescent Instrumentation Cluster

8-Way Power Adjustable Driver Seat

Front Seat Cup Holders

"The 4-cylinder MIVEC engine feels like it could hold its own against the V6s."

- Chris Van Hoven,



Designed for performance and quick response, this 16-valve 4G69 engine also sets new standards for efficiency and low emissions. Equipped with MIVEC (Mitsubishi Innovative Valve timing and lift Electronic Control) technology, it can adjust the valve timing for optimal performance for all driving conditions. This enables it to produce higher torque at low rpm ranges for quick, clean starts, and higher output in the high ranges for better passing ability.

MIVEC employs a multiple cam lobe system to vary valve timing depending on engine speed. At 3,600rpm, the engine switches control of each cylinder's twin intake valves from low and medium speed to high speed cam profiles, increasing the overlap between the intake and exhaust and boosting output throughout the high rev range.

"... the engine, interior, and ride quality are all top notch."

- Angelo Puyat,

GENERAL SPECIFICATIONS		GALANT 240M: A/T Sportronic
Overall Length	(mm)	4885
Overall Width	(mm)	1840
Overall Height	(mm)	1480
Cabin Room Length	(mm)	1997
Wheelbase	(mm)	2750
Tread (Front/Rear)	(mm)	1570 / 1570
Ground Clearance	(mm)	160
Fuel Tank Capacity	(liter)	67
ENGINE		
Model & Type		InLine-4, MIVEC
Fuel System		Multi-Port Fuel Injection
Displacement	(cc)	2378
Compression Ratio		9.5:1
Max. Power	(ps/rpm)	162/5500
Max.Torque	(kg-m/rpm)	22.3@4000
TRANSMISSION		
Model		F4A42, INVECS II Sportronic, 4-Speed
WHEELS AND TIRES		
Wheel Design		7-Spoke
Wheel Size		16" x 6.5"
Tires		215/60 R16

SUSPENSION	
Front	Independent McPherson with Stabilizer Bar
Rear	Multi-link with Coil Springs and Stabilizer Bar
BRAKES	
Front	15" Ventilated Discs
Rear	14" Solid Discs
Assist	Tandem Brake Booster
ABS	Equipped with Electronic Brakeforce Distribution
STEERING	
Type	Rack and Pinion with Power Assist
Steering Wheel	Leather Wrapped, 4-Spoke Type
Tilt Adjusment	Equipped

SAFETY

- Driver Side SRS Air Bag • Side Impact Beam
- 3 Point ELR Seatbelts x 2 for Front Passengers
- 3 Point ELR Seatbelts x 2 plus 2 point Lapbelt x 1 for Rear Passengers
- ISO-Fix Child Seat Provision x 2 • Rear Demister
- HID Headlamps with Selectable Level Adjustment
- Automatic On Headlamp System
- Rear Bumper Parking Sensors
- High Contrast LED Type Rear Combination Lamps and Third Brake Lamp
- Keyless Entry with Trunk Release Feature
- Alarm System with Engine Immobilizer Feature
- Compressed Gas Strut Assisted Hood and Trunk
- Emergency Trunk Lid Release Latch

INTERIOR

- Leather Seats • 8-Way Power Adjustable Driver Seat
- Full Automatic Climate Control System • Rear Aircon Vents
- Integrated CD/MP3/FM/AM Entertainment System (Upgradable with Subwoofer and Center Speaker)
- 3-Stage High Contrast, Ice-Blue Illumination for the Full Meter Instrument Panel
- Central Locking System • Power Side Mirrors with Fold Function
- Chrome Scuff Plates • Chrome Inner Door Handles
- Front Cup Holders • Sunglass Pocket • Rear Sunshade
- Darkwood and Chrome Accents for Door Trims
- Slide Adjustable Center Armrest • Floormats
- Rear Armrest with Integrated Cupholders and Compartment
- Dual Room and Map Lamps • Rear Reading Lamps
- Trunk Through Access • Rear Adjustable Headrest
- Illuminated Vanity Mirrors for both Driver and Passenger Sunvisors
- Retractable Front Door Pockets

EXTERIOR

- Halogen Foglamps • Fin Type Antenna • Chrome Tailpipe Finisher
- Color-Keyed Door Moulding with Chrome Insert
- Side Mirrors with Integrated Turn Lamps

1. Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corporation reserves the right to alter any specifications without prior notice.
2. Photos shown may differ from the actual unit.

See the all-new Mitsubishi Galant 240M now at your nearest dealer and schedule for a test drive.

3 year warranty

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Drive Inspired

MITSUBISHI MOTORS

Speedzone endurance race set January 28

THE MANILA SPEEDZONE ANNOUNCED recently that all is set for its 24 Hours Endurance Kart Race, which will flag off at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 28, and end at the same time on Sunday, Jan. 29, at the Manila Speedzone Kart Track in the Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

The event, which is being held in celebration of the Manila Speedzone's third anniversary and is sponsored by Denso, Castrol, Addict Mobile, Bridgestone, PLDT MyDSL, Asian Spirit, Edge Consulting, Pharmaton and Maalox, will pit a maximum of 18 teams composed of eight to 12 drivers, in a Le Mans-style format, wherein competitors will take turns behind the wheel of their team's karts over a 24-hour period. The only time that the karts will be allowed into the pits is during refueling and driver changes. The team with the most number of laps at the end of 24-hour race will be declared the winner. Up for grabs are handsome trophies for the champion team and two runners-up, while all participants will receive a plaque of participation.

Teams that have signed up for the event are PLDT-Nokia-AF3, Altronics/WL Foods, Bridgestone, RPM, French-Belgian, TRS Kids, TRS Men, MP Turbo, Renan Morales Media and Celebrity.

The Manila Speedzone is a motorsport-inspired theme park with amenities suitable for go-kart sprint and endurance racing. Amateurs and professionals as well as enthusiasts aged from eight to 80 can learn the basics of karting or satisfy their hunger for speed and excitement in a totally safe and enjoyable environment, thanks to the establishment's world-class fun karts and facilities. As a matter of fact, out of the 29 cadet karters (kids aged 7 to 12) who are currently competing in the national series, 18 began their racing careers at the Manila Speedzone.

Patrons are provided with free racing gear (racing suit, full-face helmet and head sock) and given a briefing on safety and the basic rules of karting. A fully computerized timing system allows customers to see their lap times, as well as the fastest times, giving them a goal to aim for. Every month, free cell phones are awarded to the fastest male, female and kiddie drivers, and are also raffled off to faithful customers.

The karting facilities along with the restaurant and bar, clubhouse, private multifunction meeting room and spacious parking space, make the Manila Speedzone a perfect venue for corporate events, private parties, team building seminars and plain, simple racing!

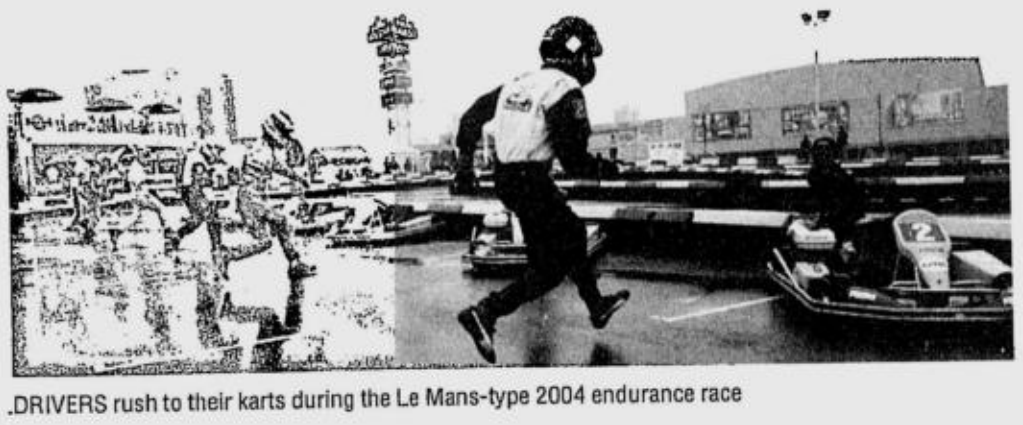
For more details and information, visit the Manila Speedzone at Block 42, 8th Avenue corner 34 Street, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig, call 881-9682 or fax 881-9683.

GLOBE TELECOM GETS PREFERRED 3G SPECTRUM FROM NTC

Globe Telecom is now set to roll out its 3G service as the National Telecommunications Commission (NTC) granted Globe its preferred 3G spectrum. The 1945-1955 Megahertz (MHz), 2135-2145 MHz radio frequency bands awarded to Globe would allow the company to rapidly deploy 3G and deliver superior quality 3G services in the country. At the awarding of 3G frequency spectrum at the NTC were (from left) Globe regulatory affairs head V. Froilan M. Castelo, Globe wireless network technical group head Emmanuel R. Estrada, NTC Deputy Commissioner Jorge V. Sarmiento, Globe senior vice president Rodolfo A. Salalima, NTC Commissioner Ronald O. Solis, NTC Deputy Commissioner Jaime M. Fortes, Jr., Globe paralegal and administrative services head Gallardo T. Auson, and Globe public relations head Jones T. Campos.

CMC SUPPORTS MEDICAL TOURISM PROGRAM

The Philippine government, through the Department of Health, Tourism, Trade and Industry, and Foreign Affairs, launched the Philippine Medical Tourism Program (PMTP) held at Diamond Hotel, Manila. The Program is aimed at attracting international patients to the country for medical care, as well as sightseeing tours, vacation, and shopping packages. Shown at the CMC booth is DOH Secretary Francisco Duque III with Dr. Thelma N. Clemente, MHA, president/CEO, and Lorelei Arguilla, administrative officer. Capitol Medical Center is one of the four private hospitals accredited for medical tourism by the Department of Tourism.



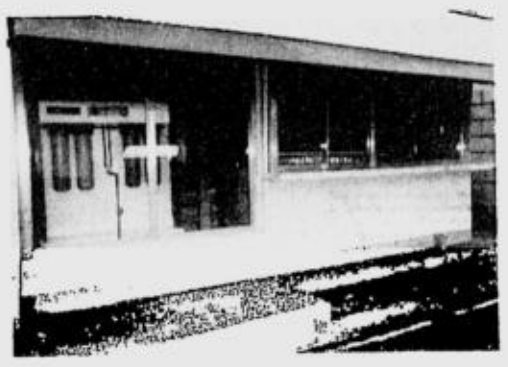
DRIVERS rush to their karts during the Le Mans-type 2004 endurance race

Low-cost water station

THE TYPICAL RO (REVERSE OSMOSIS) water refilling equipment throws away seven out of 10 gallons of water, making them unprofitable. Not only are they expensive, as such systems can cost as much as P1 million to set up, they are also bulky and costly to operate.

The high-tech, efficient way of generating safe, germ-free, and profitable water is to use the Electromex UHP500 compact, stand-alone, fully ozonated 3,000-gallons-per-day water refilling equipment. Already used in France, Switzerland, Saudi Arabia and Los Angeles water districts, ozonation is 300 times more effective in killing bacteria, as well as removing lead, mercury and other harmful chemicals than any RO system.

With a cost of production of only 30 centavos per gallon, the UHP500 guarantees profits faster than any other business below P150,000. The UHP500 comes complete with tanks, filters, pumps, carbon, ultra violet and ozone generator. There's no need for drilling, cementing and expensive construction. Just plug into a 220-volt outlet, connect to your garden hose and start making money now.



THE ELECTROMEX UHP500

Electromex also builds ozonators for sewerage water treatment and non-chlorinated ozonator systems for swimming pools. For more details, call Electromex Inc at 531-6782 or 535-9069, or log on to www.electromex-inc.com.

Melatonin shows various benefits

MELATONIN, THE OVER-THE-counter natural sleep-enhancing pill, may also help alleviate signs and symptoms associated with aging, and help patients suffering from prostate problems and depression.

Professors F. Magri and S. Sarra of the University of Pavia in Italy published in the Journal of Pineal Research that the elderly, ages 66 to 94, demented or not, exhibited a flattened circadian profile, because of the suppression of the nocturnal peak of melatonin production. This suggests that melatonin secretion in the elderly, which is generally reduced, may be an important marker of biological age and of the health status of aging patients.

Other studies even suggest that melatonin might have an anti-aging effect. Many health experts, therefore, recommend melatonin supplementation for the elderly at bedtime whether or not there are sleeping problems.

In patients with prostate problems such as benign prostatic hypertrophy (BPH), melatonin supplementation may also help alleviate bothersome urinary symptoms. In a well-designed crossover study of men with BPH, those given melatonin had a decrease in nocturia or frequent urination at night. The study was authored by professors M. Drake, I. Mills, and J. Noble of the University of Newcastle and was published in the Journal of Urology.

Melatonin supplementation also provided some help for patients with depression or mild seasonal affective disorder. In a double-blind, placebo-controlled 3-week study of 58 adults with subsyndromal seasonal affective disorder (s-SAD), melatonin supplementation at night improved the quality of sleep and vitality in the subjects with s-SAD. This is part of the report of professor S. Leppamaki and his colleagues at the National Public Health Institute in Helsinki, Finland. The report was published in the European Journal of Neuropsychopharmacology.

In another study published in the Gerontology journal, melatonin supplementation was shown to have helped older women who reported a decrease in depressive symptoms while on melatonin.

According to professor Thomas Radecki, MD, one of the world's renowned authorities on melatonin, production of this natural substance tends to be reduced and/or it lacks the normal cycling pattern in old age and in many diseases including dementia, HIV infection, anorexia nervosa, autism, heart attacks, heart failure, migraines, and obesity.

Double-blind studies have also found some evidence of benefit in hair loss, high blood pressure, irritable bowel syndrome, metastatic cancer and tardive dyskinesia.

"At very least, melatonin looks excellent for sleep and older individuals taking it for sleep will probably reap other benefits as well," Radecki states. Pregnant women, however, should not take melatonin, he advises. Radecki explains that the benefits of melatonin are probably greatest in individuals over age 50 when endogenous levels are declining or in individuals with acute diseases characterized in part by oxidative damage, e.g. heart attacks and strokes.

The Philippine distributor of Melatonin-T, Trianon International, endorses it as "an aid to sleep problems, making one enjoy deep, restful sleep and waking up the next day feeling relaxed." It is not promoting it for its other reported beneficial effects including helping prevent cancer and rapid aging; and preservation of sexual function in men.

Trianon Melatonin-T is classified as an over-the-counter food supplement, and is available in Mercury and Watson Drug stores nationwide. Francis Melegrito, Trianon sales and marketing director, said that the company is now welcoming provincial distributors for Melatonin-T and its other products. They may call 815-3239, 892-0723 or 24 for further information.

SPaCE post-grad program

TO HELP RESTAURATEURS, A ONE-YEAR POST-BACCALAUREATE Diploma in Restaurant and Food Entrepreneurship is offered by the School of Professional and Continuing Education (SPaCE) of De La Salle-College of Saint Benilde. Ideal for caterers as well, the program is designed to help participants identify and analyze the crucial elements involved in the successful operation of a restaurant and food service operation. It presents concepts and techniques in providing the best "total meal experience" by combining three important elements: customers, service operation, and employees. The first module will run from Jan. 28 to March 4. For more details, call 523-8888 local 341.

TECSON CONFERRED DOCTORATE BY PUP

Dr. Antonio P. Tecson, president of the Filipino-Chinese General Chamber of Commerce Inc (FCGCCI) and executive vice president of the Chinese General Hospital and Medical Center (CGHMC), was conferred the degree of Doctor in Business Administration, Honoris Causa by the Polytechnic University of the Philippines Graduate School in its 2005 mid-year commencement in December. Tecson earlier received other prestigious awards, which include Who's Who in the World, Outstanding Intellectual of the 21st Century, International Professor of the Year 2005 and Universal Award of Accomplishment. He graduated summa cum laude from the Institute of Accounts Business and Finance of the Far Eastern University. Shown is Tecson receiving the hood from the president and other dignitaries of PUP.

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Optima Nail Art & Beauty Center has branches at 8001 Financial Center Area, Roxas Boulevard, Pasay City (call 0915-9989922), and at G-3 108 BSA Tower, Legaspi Street, Legaspi Village, Makati City (call 843-6065, telefax 818-3048)

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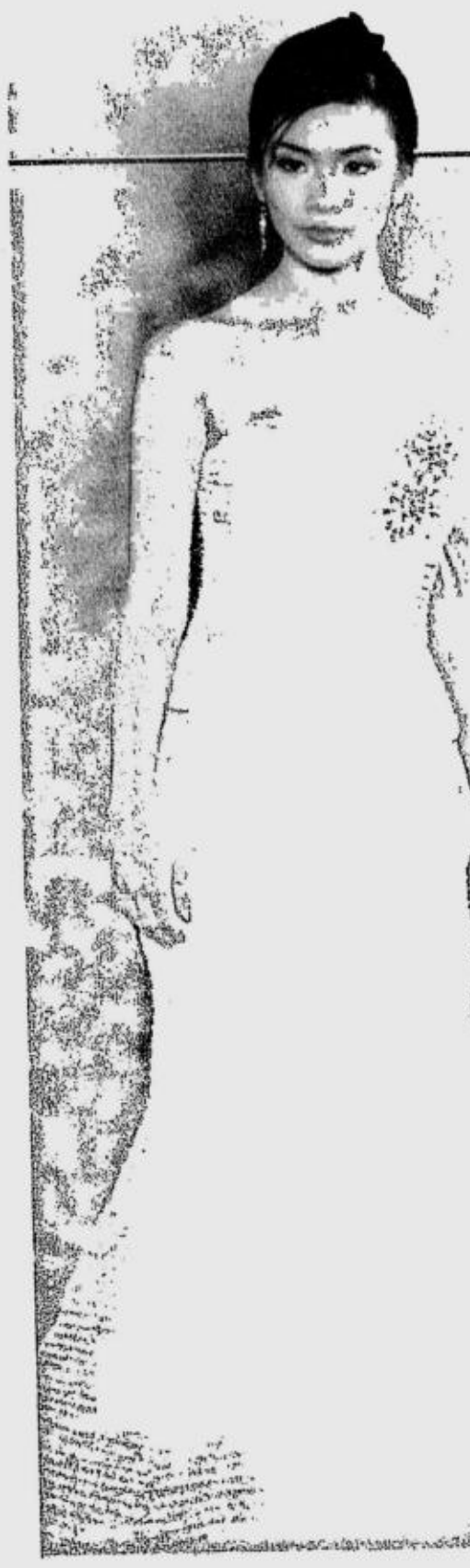


Abel Iloco replacing Hawaiian shirts

By Frank Cimatu
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau
With photos by Leoncio Balbin Jr.

VIGAN CITY—Girls were dancing the hula before a group of Hawaiianos that included Hawaii Gov. Linda Lingle, her staff and about 100 Ilocano balikbayan.

The rhythm and hand movements of the girls approximated the real McCoy but what were striking were the grass skirts because they were not the authentic raffia grass nor the plastic straw rope ones.

Instead they were strips of the abel Iloco. This glittery hand-woven Iloco cotton suddenly made the South Pacific go the way of the Amianan Express.

"Ilocanos have made it big in Hawaii so it only follows that Ilocano culture will also slowly be assimilated," says Ilocos Sur provincial administrator Vicky Cu, who also happens to be the biggest promoter of abel Iloco.

"We have to use our Ilocano balikbayan to market the abel Iloco," Cu says.

The abel Iloco is slowly penetrating Hawaii, the fourth of the population of which is of Ilocos origin (25 percent of the total population are of Filipino origin and 80 percent of those with Filipino blood trace their roots to the Ilocos).

Cu says Ilocanos in Hawaii have started wearing abel Iloco shirts in formal gatherings instead of the Aloha or Hawaiian shirts.

VICKY Cu (second from left) and fashion designer Enrique Flores with two of the models

"These are the plain ones but we have started handpainting our abel Iloco," she says.

During a recent fashion show of abel Iloco at the Intramuros in Manila, most of the abel Iloco gowns created by Manila-based designer Enrique Flores were handpainted with flowers.

"We got Vigan painters to do the painting. This gives them an exclusive personal touch," says Cu.

Other "flowery" innovations are embroidering the abel with hibiscus and other Hawaiian flowers.

Another innovation, which Flores did during the Intramuros show, includes painstakingly electric-pleating the abel and adding beads.

Cu says many members of the Filipino Chamber of Commerce who were part of Lingle's entourage, placed orders for the gowns and Aloha shirts.

"When they toured the Vigan plaza, they were discouraged to find that the abel was out of stock," she says.

The provincial government gave as gifts abel Iloco as well as Ilocos basi and some food products to the Hawaii visitors.

Cu says that part of their Hawaiian strategy was to dress homecoming beauty queens with gowns made of abel Iloco.

"Somehow the fad caught on," she says.

Vice Gov. Deogracias Savellano says that frequently staging fashion shows in areas where there is a big Ilocano population like Hawaii, western US and Australia, has boosted the demand for abel Iloco.

Savellano says an enterprising Ilocana has opened a shop in Hawaii selling abel Iloco and it has been doing well particularly for casual and wedding ensemble.

Another Hawaii-based shop, which is successful in selling abel Iloco among other Filipino fabrics, is Jofarina's House of Filipino Attire in Honolulu. *With a report from Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

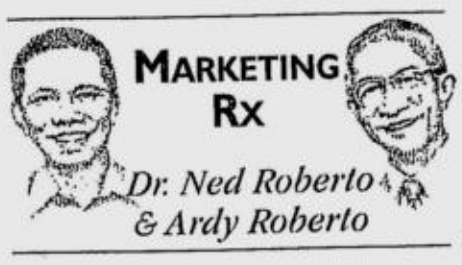
THE CLOTH IS for little girls to not so little ones

THE CLOTH can be embroidered to look like the classic barong Tagalog.

THE ILOCOS Sur provincial dance troupe depicted how to make an abel iloco dress during a fashion show in Intramuros, Manila that also showcased the best of Ilocos products

DESIGNERS have started hand painting the versatile cloth.

What do you do when your name is Ralph Lifshitz? (Advice from Al Ries)



Dr. Ned Roberto & Ardy Roberto

TWO WEEKS AGO, WE COMmitted to bring you advice from Al Ries, one of the best known marketing strategists in the world, on a bi-weekly basis until he arrives in Manila in June to do a one-day marketing conference. Ries is the author of the international best-sellers, Positioning, The 22 Immutable Laws of Marketing, (co-authored with Jack Trout) and recently, The 22 Immutable Laws of Branding. We know you're excited about having Al Ries as our guest columnist based on the emails that we've received.

So, as promised, here's more marketing advice from Al Ries:

Q: Many professional services companies struggle with naming their practice. Do you have any advice on what to consider when naming or renaming a consulting business?

Al Ries: Consulting is a people business, so the first names to consider are the people themselves, especially if they are still alive. Even dead, a people name is probably better than any other name. Ernst & Young is a better name than KPMG.

If you are the CEO and your name is lousy, change it. Ralph Lifshitz was a designer who wanted to become a famous designer, so he changed his name to Ralph Lauren.

There are many, many consultants out there with names as bad as Lifshitz, but in my experience they almost never change their names. Tragic.

Faith Plotkin wanted to get famous, so she changed her name to Faith Popcorn and her books and consulting practice have made her famous.

Avoid the bombast name. There are a lot of one-person consultancies out there with names like "Worldwide Global Marketing, Advertising & Sales Consultants." In names, bigger is not necessarily better. Bigger often sounds foolish.

Q: If you could give my company one piece of marketing advice, what would it be?

Ries: Focus. Whatever you are doing today, your business would be stronger and more profitable in the long run, if you concentrated your activities on one industry, one region, one function, or one problem. When you try to be all things to all people, you end up being nothing.

What's a Chevrolet? It's a large, small, cheap, expensive, car or truck. It's also a brand that used to be the leader, but has lost its leadership to Ford.

Why is it that most successful entrepreneurs fail when they tried to start a second company? They believe it was their skill that made the first success possible rather than the situation. Therefore, they believe they can do anything as long as they are in charge.

It's the situation that makes the successful person.

Should one just find a horse to ride or should one also take self improvement courses, develop skills and focus on personal development? I don't think you can take courses to become successful. The best approach is "on the job" training. Bill Gates never finished Harvard. If he had, he would not have been successful.

Q: We are a relatively small direct mail company with the following business units: letter shopping, fulfillment, agency, and seminars. Would you call this "unfocused" or do you think the focus could be elsewhere (perhaps in enhanced flexibility)?

Ries: On the surface, it seems that you are a bit unfocused. Does each of your four units represent about 25 percent of your sales? If not, which unit or units represent the vast majority of your business? These are the units to focus on. On the other hand, some units serve as drivers of others. We are marketing consultants, but our books and speeches drive our marketing consulting business. Even if books and speeches were unprofitable, it might be worthwhile doing them because of their effect on our consulting business.

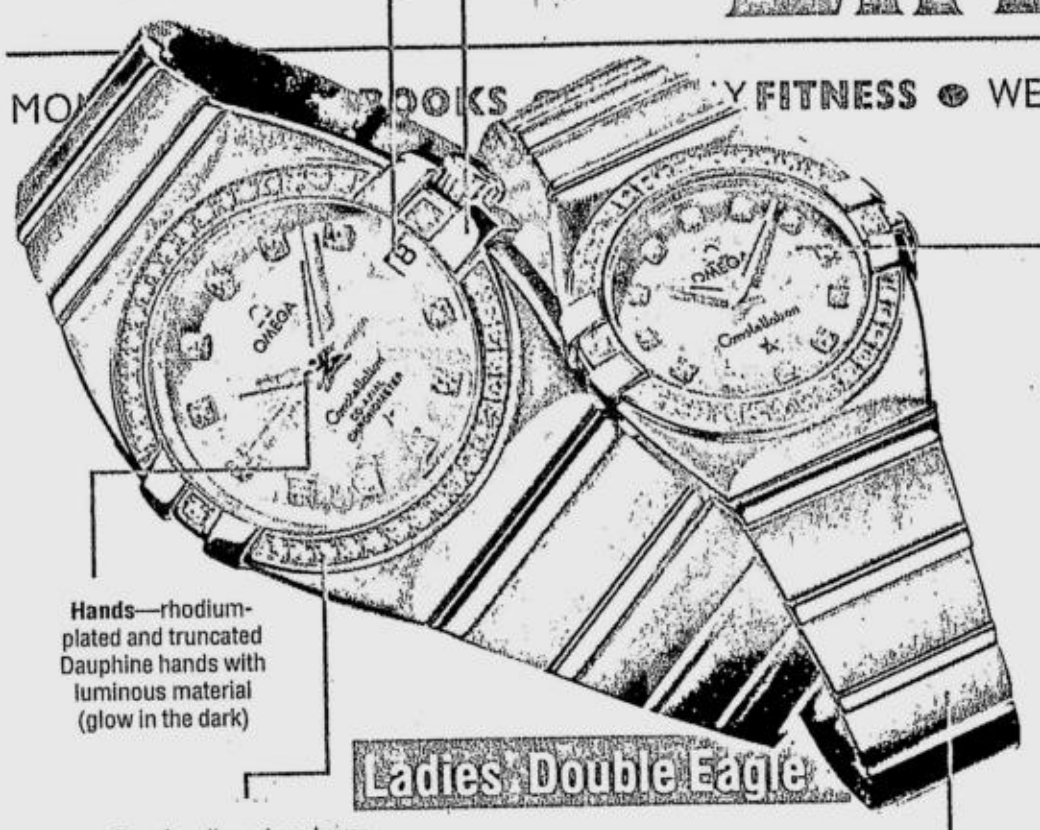
Q: How has the "branding industry" grown in recent years and what will the future hold?

Ries: There has been continual evolution in the thinking of many companies on this issue. Years ago, "marketing" replaced "selling" as the major activity of corporations. The marketing function encompassed all the activities that companies use to distribute their products including selling, advertising, public relations, merchandising, pricing, etc.

Recently, however, the emphasis has shifted again. What is the objective of a marketing program? Obviously, the objective of such a program is to build the brand in the prospect's mind. Companies that built brands like Budweiser, McDonald's, Rolex, BMW, Volvo and many others are very successful while companies that failed to build powerful brands often went bankrupt. Hence the emphasis on "branding" which has become a much more discussed topic in the business community today than "marketing."

In the future, we see marketing dividing into two functions: One is "branding" which would encompass all those activities that have to do with influencing consumers such as advertising and public relations. The other function is "selling" which will need a new name to encompass not only selling, but also promotions, merchandising, posters, point-of-sale activities.

If you have any questions for us or for Al Ries send them to us at MarketingRx@pldtDSL.net or text us at 0919-314-5412. God bless!



Omega's latest timepieces for men and women define sporty luxury

Classy double treat

GREGORY Kissling, Omega's product manager for Constellation, De Ville and Specialities

By Allison W. Lopez

THIS COMING VALentine is the perfect excuse to buy your ladylove a new watch, and grab yourself one that matches hers.

And with the timely launch of Omega's latest Constellation Double Eagle models for men and women, there seems no other perfect choice.

This year, the Swiss brand expands its Double Eagle collection with a sportier version of the men's chronograph, and new ladies' watches sparkling with gold and diamonds.

The chronometer models, of course, still possess the same cutting-edge innovation exclusive to Omega—the Co-Axial Escapement, a special technology that reduces friction in movement and ensures better long-term accuracy.

First launched in 2003, the Double Eagle line takes its name after the ultimate score in golf—a "double eagle," or a score of three under par. It's quite elusive as it requires a hole-in-one in a par-four hole or, as is more likely, two strokes on a par-five hole.

"This feat requires ultimate precision on the part of the golfer and therefore lends itself ideally as the name for these precision chronometers," says Gregory Kissling, Omega's product manager for Constellation, De Ville and Specialities.

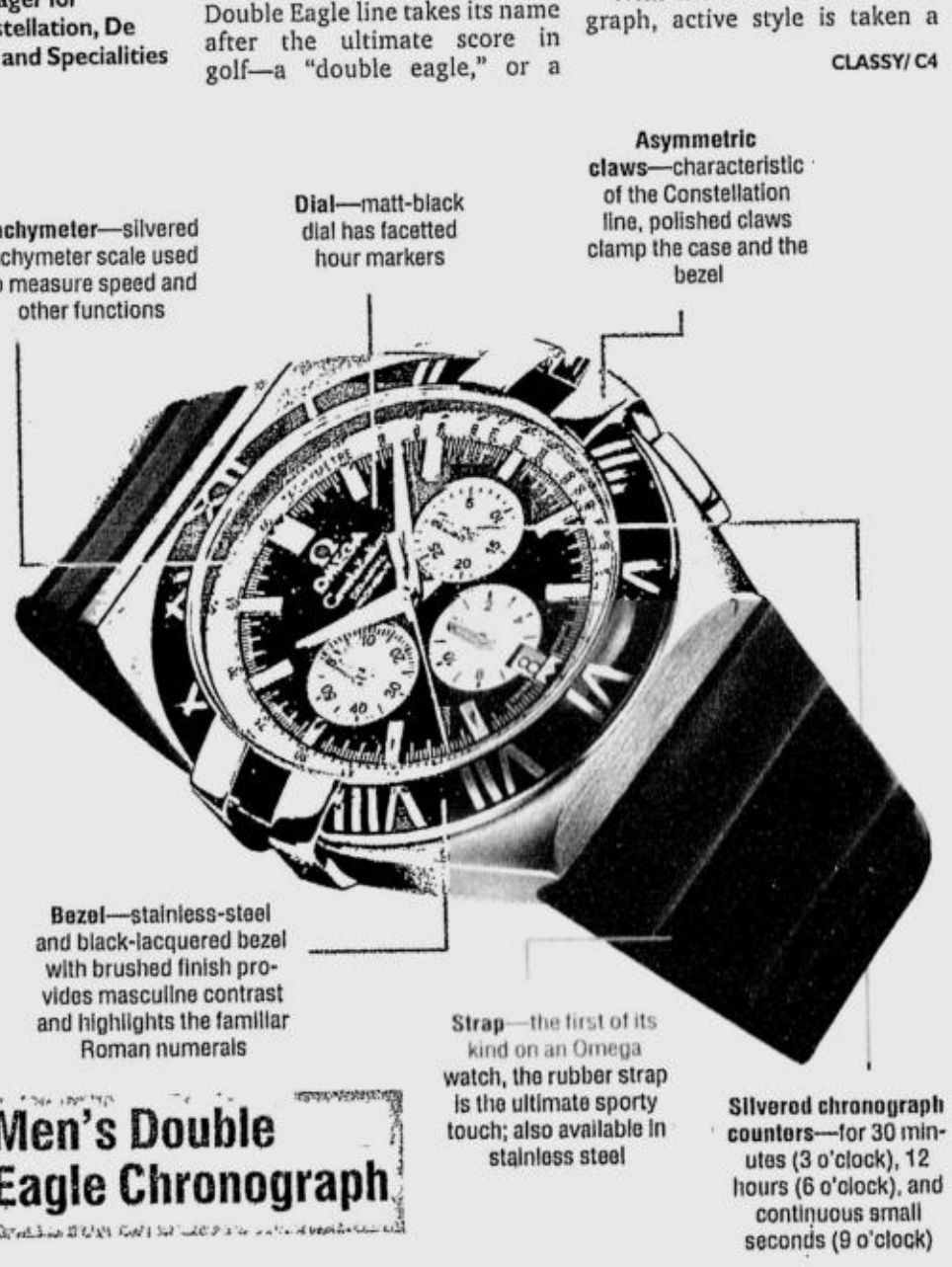
Bestseller

Since the Constellation was launched in 1952, it has been Omega's best-selling product, and top-of-the-range in pricing. "It is the emblem of the brand," Kissling says.

Unlike other high-end brands that stick only to classic lines, Kissling says Omega reaches out to different markets with its variety of watch collections. The Constellation is classified under Omega's fashion line of watches, with the Double Eagle as its sporty segment.

With the new men's chronograph, active style is taken a

CLASSY/ C4



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2006
is the year of the dog

狗

What's in store at the mall

Lion and Dragon Dance
Welcome the New Year with a wild bang! Chase away negative vibes and spirits with the Lion and Dragon Dance! Simultaneously on January 29, 2006.

Wushu Exhibitions
Learn the basics of this graceful martial art in selected malls on January 27-29, 2006.

Lucky Recipes
Give your favorite Asian dishes a new twist! Knorr suggests some lucky recipes for the New Year. Check them out at :
SM Southmall,SM City Fairview, SM Megamall, SM City North Edsa
January 26-29, 2006
SM City Pampanga,SM City Batangas, SM City Lucena , SM City Baguio, SM City Marilao
February 9-12, 2006

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SM CITY LUCENA • SM CITY BAGUIO • SM CITY DAVAO • SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO • SM CITY SAN LAZARO • SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA • SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO

LET'S PARTY. Dr. Diana Chua, my pal Johnny Litton, Backie Pamintuan Celdran and sister Patis P. Tesoro

FRED Borromeo, Dr. Mike Celdran, Mia B. and mother Nena Borromeo

HONG KONG bigwigs Christine Yap-Tan, Emma Yap and business magnate Felipe Yap

SUPER CLOSE. Tony Yeh and Sylvia Yeh

BRILLIANT MINDS. John Forbes, Marjorie Yang, David Lim, unmatchable Evelyn Lim-Forbes and Dora Yang

CHRISTINA Quimson, Mercedes Tuason, Madeleine Lim, Lady Muriel Kadoorie, Lady Betty Kadoorie, Emma Yap and Teresa Chan

Hotel bigwig marks milestone

VIVACIOUS Margaret Kwok

DAZZLING Mary Prieto

THREE IS ALWAYS A CHARM," THE saying goes. And distinguished gentleman **PL Lim**, of the Peninsula Manila group, definitely knows why, dahlings.

PI's fantastic *famille* threw a mega celebration marking three milestones: 30 successful years of Capital Garment Corp.; 40 years of the Philippine Carpet Manufacturing Corp.; and no less than 90 bountiful years of PL Lim's colorful, beautiful life, *palanggas*.

The fab party was held at the Pen's grand ballroom, which was dressed like a Zen paradise and draped with cool ecru fabric.

Naturellement, what's a bash without a wild gastronomic whip-up? So, the hotel's talented executive chef outdid himself with a buffet that everyone fell in love with.

Scattered around the ballroom were stations dedicated to fresh oysters and tiger shrimps, excellent grills, and the to-die-for chocolate. Needless to say they were the night's hottest corners, *palanggas*.

With the chic lounge style and the fantastic music, everyone was in the mood for a party. After all, it was an evening of friendship and togetherness.

No less than **Michael Kadoorie**, chair of Hong Kong Shanghai Hotels Limited which owns the Peninsula hotels, jetted in with his *famille* for the conferment of the honorary chairship of Manila Peninsula Hotels Inc. on PL Lim, no less.

The Peninsula Manila's popular GM, **David Batchelor**, had earlier hosted an intimate lunch at the Magsaysay Room of Old Manila. The highlight of the lunch was the unveiling of PI's photograph, which hangs right beside those of Lord **Lawrence** and Sir **Horace Kadoorie**, recipients of the 1962 Magsaysay Award for Public Service.

By nighttime, others had joined the grand dinner celebration: fun couple **Walter and Clemy Euyang**; popular personality **Rafael Hechanova** and socialite **Mely Concepcion Hechanova**; elegant **Bonnie Sycip**; couture master **Pitoy Moreno**; banker **Ramon** and **Josie Sy**; **Tiling** and **Nena Yulo**; **Helen Delgado**; **Bobby** and **Chingbee Cuenca**; and Don **Paco Delgado** and **Vicky Quirino**.

A scrumptious three-tiered cake was wheeled in by the hotel's banquet brigade; the numbers "30," "40" and "90" were emblazoned in gold on the cake.

Tall and dashing PL Lim proudly stood by his enchanting wife, adorable **Madeleine Lim**, while the chi-chi set drank a toast to the celebrator's "good health and the best life can bring."

Enjoying the classical music and fellowship were **Marivic del Rosario**, **Doris Ho**, **Gina Lopez**, **Patrick** and **Toni Parsons**, **Chito** and **Ana Sobrepena** and **Rosary Ysmael**.

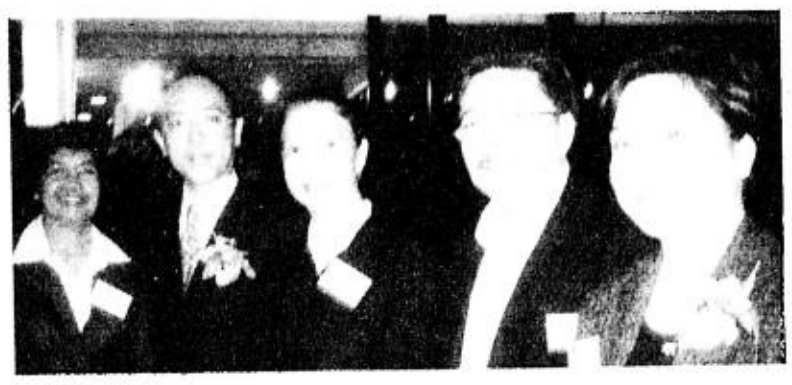
Here's to you, PL. Cheers, *palangga*!

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by **Alex Van Hagen** using **Kodak** EasyShare system

HAPPY COUPLE Madeleine Lim and PL Lim

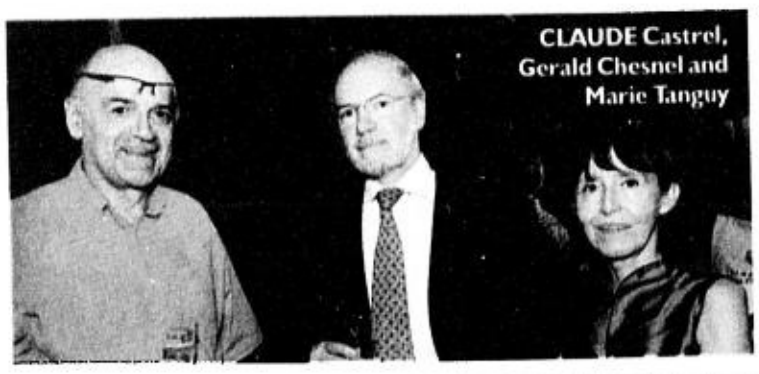


HONG KONG-based Philippine Tourism attaché Tess Mauricio; Joe Kwok, GM, Greater China; Hon. Consul General Corazon Belmonte-Jover; lawyer Aga Arellano; and Liza Henson

INQUIRER board chair Marixi Rufino P. and husband, mega businessman Alex Prieto

FUN COUPLE. Boling Tuason R. and husband, Vic Reyes

THE GANG OF FOUR. Baby Girl-Fricke, Susie Ortigas, Ernest Escaler and Menchu Katigbak



CLAUDE Castrel, Gerald Chesnel and Marie Tanguy

MOI, beautiful Macy Pineda, Paul Skipworth, Möet-Hennessy Phil. representative Olga Azarcon

Champagne crowd

Cosmo Manille's champagne drinkers came in full bubbly force, *palanggas*, when Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin House, creator of fine champagne wines since 1772, launched a new high-tech and chic fashion accessory—the innovative Clicquot Ice Jacket.

The unveiling of the jacket was held at the trendy M Café in Greenbelt 4, Makati. The café's al fresco dining area was transformed by **Martin Wisniewski** into an elegant party place with DJ **Scrambled Edge** spinning cool house music.

As soft and light as a feather, the Clicquot Ice Jacket is tailored and tight-fitting like a neoprene diving suit. The bright-yellow ice jacket reveals the bottle's expensive curves, reflecting champagne chic.

The A-list guests were welcomed by **Olga Azarcon**, Möet-Hennessy Philippine representative, and dashing **Paul Skipworth**, hotshot regional director of Möet-Hennessy Asia-Pacific, no less, who gave us an insight on the illustrious history of the Veuve Clicquot Ponsardin House.

The house, Skipworth said, "has remained loyal to founder Madame **Clicquot**'s watchword: 'only one quality... the finest.'"

The ceremonial toast had some of the invitees drinking (not sipping) the champagne faster than you could bat an eyelash.

Everyone couldn't get enough of the Veuve Clicquot's Yellow Label Champagne, accentuating the fabulous flavor of M Café's hors d'oeuvre, exquisitely prepared by Chef **Sau**.

The fantastic Clicquot Ice Jacket lets you enjoy your Veuve Clicquot Brut Yellow Label as it remains at an ideal temperature for two whole hours.

HARRIET Skipworth and People Palace's Colin Mackay

STAR MAKERS. Dennis Lustico, Inno Sotto and Patrick Rosas

STEVE Alcoseba, GM San Miguel HK, and Edwin Bautista

GANG OF THREE. Pepper Teehankee, popular AJ Joes and Smart's Tom Valderrama

BONG Mojica, Cebu Pacific general manager, addressing the invitees during the opening ceremonies

CHARLIE Palapal-Latoc, Cebu Pacific's director for airport service, and Holiday World marketing manager Vien Chen

CEBU Pacific smart gals. Vera Lim, CEB VP for domestic sales; Tina Trinidad, CEB VP for passenger service; and Anna Mendoza, CEB director for special events

ANNA Mendoza, CEB hotshot director for special events, and Roland Nuñez, CEB VP for marketing and commercial planning

Cebu in Hong Kong

Cebu Pacific, now the country's second largest airline, held a grand opening bash for its first regional office in Hong Kong, at Tsimshatsui East, Kowloon, *palanggas*.

The new office handles ticket sales, reservations and customer service. This will definitely boost the airline's awesome promotions and marketing operations in Hong Kong, China, Macao, Taiwan and Japan.

At the cocktail reception, Cebu Pacific's GM, **Bong Mojica**, said that with the establishment of the new Hong Kong office, "it will be more convenient for travelers to make ticket purchases and reservations."

The transportation head of Invest Hong Kong, **Benjamin Wong**, welcomed the opening of the office. "We are particularly pleased to see Cebu Pacific choosing Hong Kong as the location for its first office outside the Philippines. We wish the airline all the best in its future development in Hong Kong and in the region," he said.

Cebu Pacific, a unit of JG Summit Holdings Inc., now operates the *Manille*-Hong Kong route, using its slick and brand-new 150-seater Airbus A319.

"We currently fly four of our new Airbus aircraft and expect to have a total of 14 aircraft by the time we complete Cebu Pacific's refleeting program by early 2007," Mojica said.

Visit www.cebupacificair.com.

NEW FACES TO WATCH
Technomarine introduces new faces for its latest promotional campaign to launch the latest addition to its line of distinctive watches. TechnoMarine's latest range of products include the Chrono Color Ceramic Collection, the Hummer Watch, the Diva Dimitri and Maori models. The company is also introducing its eyewear line that includes Jackie-O frames to Swarovski-studded leather temple prescriptive glasses. Present at the contract signing between the distributor and the new image models were Nancy Castiglione, Iya Villania, Chesca Garcia, Retail Operators Inc. chief operating officer Jerome Garcia and president Raffy Florencio, Jay-R and Marco Alcaraz.

Mall exhibit of all things Chinese

UNTIL JAN. 28, POPULAR CHINESE goods like porcelain wares, ceramics, good luck charms and the celebrated Chinese moon cake will be up for sale at Festival Supermall's Carousel Court. From Jan. 24 to Feb. 6, an exhibit of the most popular weapons in Chinese medieval history and costumes of the famous Chinese Northern Lion and Unicorn will be held simultaneously at the mall's 2/L main entrance and 3/L, Chef's Avenue. A mallwide Chinese New Year sale will also be held from Jan. 27-29. Booklets with useful feng shui tips will be given to lucky customers. Call 8503514. Festival Supermall is at Filinvest Corporate City, Alabang, Muntinlupa.

FESTIVAL. Shangri-La Plaza has lined up exciting activities to welcome the Chinese New Year. The Year of the Dog celebration revs up with a two-week food and curio festival at 1/L, Shaw Boulevard Exhibit Area. The area will be abuzz with colorful novelty booths offering authentic Chinese delicacies, lucky charms and gemstones. The festival runs until Feb. 2. On Jan. 28, calligrapher Que returns at the Art Plaza for another demonstration of Chinese Calligraphy at 3 p.m. It will be followed by a back-to-back concert by the Chiang Kai Shek Chorale and the award-winning Dynamic Youth Chorale at the Grand Atrium, 4 p.m. At 12 midnight, gather the family together for a dazzling pyrotechnic show at Streetscape. On Jan. 29, the festivities are highlighted by a Dragon and Lion Dance by the Golden Lion Youth Club at the Grand Atrium at 2 p.m., followed by a craft-making session for kids at the Art Plaza at 4 p.m.

LECTURE. The first Feng Shui Matters lecture/workshop series will be held on Jan. 28, 1:30 p.m., at Philippine Coconut Authority Auditorium, Diliman, Quezon City. California-based feng shui expert Roberto "Tseng" Vicente will discuss in detail feng shui matters on health and business and possible cures on how to counter negative energy in his first lecture series. Participants can bring floor plan of their house for analysis during the workshop. Call 0920-7226743.

ANNUAL EVENT. The Kapisanan ng may K sa Pilipinas (KMKP), an umbrella organization of cancer support groups in the country will celebrate its annual Cancer Survivors' Day dubbed "Buhay Mo, Buhay Ko, Isang Pasasalamat," Jan. 28, at the East Avenue Medical Center. A Thanksgiving Mass will be officiated by Fr. Charlie Ricafort, from 9 a.m.-12 noon, at the Conference Room, 2/F, EAMC. Call 4265659 or 9226370.

SEMINAR. The First Asia Institute (United School), Tanauan City, Batangas, will host a seminar, "How to Make Your Family Healthy," on Jan. 28 at the First Asia Institute Campus. Call (043) 4052326.

GOINGS ON

EVENTS. Star Group of Malls has lined up activities to celebrate the Chinese New Year. The traditional Chinese Lion and Dragon dance is set on Jan. 29, 10 a.m., at Starmall Edsa; 1 p.m. at Star Alabang; and 2 p.m. at Starmall Las Piñas. On the same day, a Psychic Festival will also be held simultaneously at Starmall Edsa and Metropolis Star Alabang. Call 8181886 or 8504752.

HOMECOMING. St. Scholastica's San Fernando Alumni Association will hold its grand homecoming on Feb. 4, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., at St. Scholastica's Academy, Cer-hill San Agustin, San Fernando, Pampanga. Call 8549728, 0919-6506800 and 0917-6220026.

FAIR. Greenhills Shopping Complex presents "13th Fiesta Fair" until Feb. 5. Quality products and goods are sold at low prices. The trade fair is organized by Prime Asia Trade Planners and Convention Organizers.

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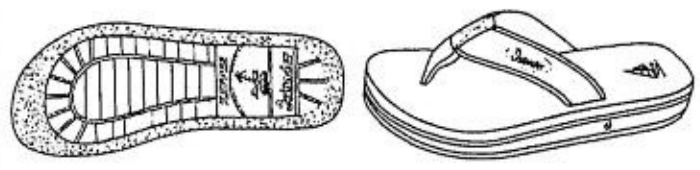

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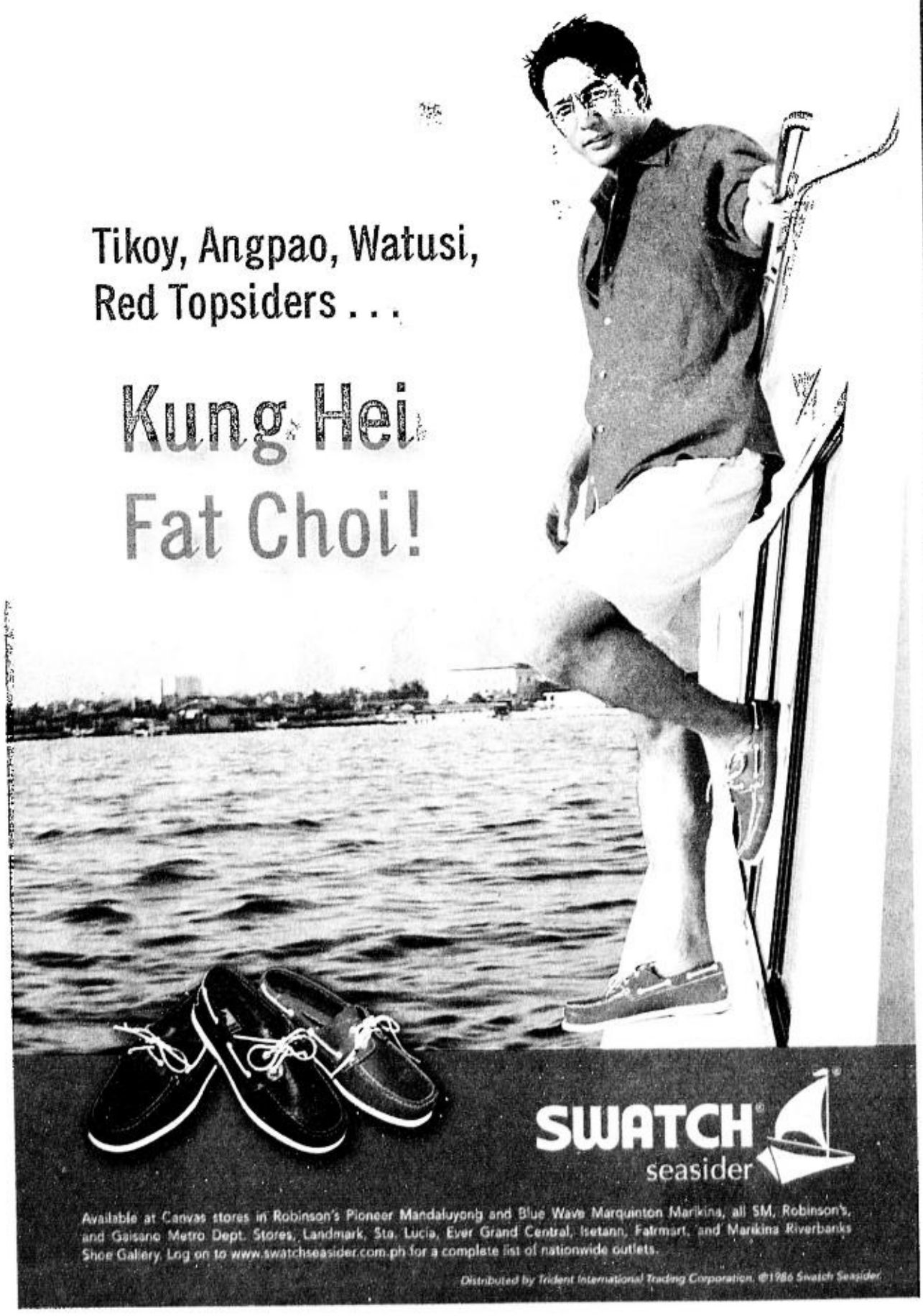

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Classy double treat

From page C1

notch higher with the introduction of the rubber strap—the first of its kind on an Omega watch—which is just right for the golf enthusiast who has to sweat it out in the sun. Of course, there's still the all-steel strap for men who prefer the classic look.

The gents' Double Eagle Chronograph uses the Omega caliber 3313, a self-winding chronometer movement fitted with Co-Axial Escapement, with power reserve of 55 hours.

Even with all the features the dial contains, the chronograph watch still has room for the date, so the gents won't forget we're nearing Feb. 14 (ahem).

Seven models

The ladies, meanwhile, will love the seven models they can choose from, though they may have a harder time with the various specifications. Some may like it big (31mm) or small (24mm), and some may choose to have it encrusted in diamonds in 18-carat yellow gold; two-tone 18-carat yellow gold and steel; or in all-steel versions. There's also the "mini-me" of the male chronometer at 31mm for that "His and Hers" look.

The 24mm versions use the Omega quartz caliber 1376, which has a battery lifetime of 32 months, while the 31mm models are powered by Omega's caliber 2500, also with the Omega Co-Axial Escapement, with power reserve of 48 hours.

All new Double Eagle models with the Co-Axial Escapement have a transparent sapphire crystal case back that shows off the mechanical movement, while quartz watches have a case back stamped with the Constellation's observatory emblem, as well as the Double Eagle inscription.

These new babies are also water-resistant to 100m/330 ft.

Is there anything sweeter than this double treat?

The new Double Eagle collection is available at the Omega showroom, 2/F, Glorietta 1, Ayala Center, Makati City.

MEN'S Double Eagle Chronograph in all-steel strap

LADIES' Double Eagle in all-steel (24mm), and Ladies' Double Eagle Chronometer (31mm) for a "His and Hers" look

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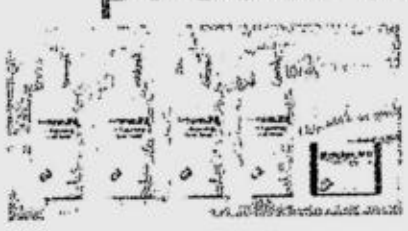
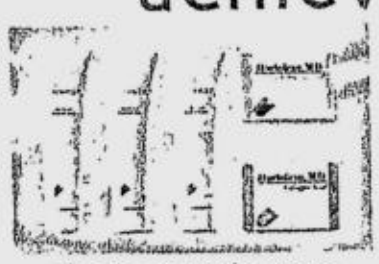
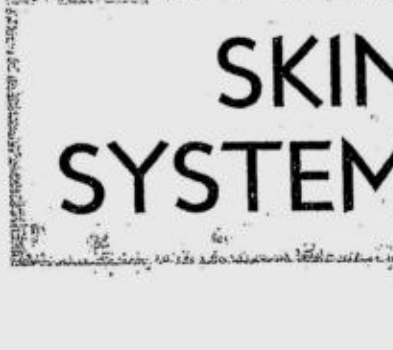


age reducer system

flawlessness you can achieve!



pimple control system



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Whitening Capsule

Achieving porcelain-white, celebrity complexion and making it last is a process that goes beyond the usual skin-deep solutions. Thanks to the discovery of Glutathione, getting more permanent results has finally become so effortless.

Glutathione is essentially a natural, immunity-boosting tripetide amino acid that is found in the body. Regular intake of Glutathione has been tested and proven for its positive "effect": whitening of dark skin! No wonder, it has been dubbed as the "prescription-of-the-moment" by Hollywood dermatologists, thus earning its stature as one of the most coveted, "to-die-for" beauty arsenals among celebrities, socialites---and practically anyone who can afford it.

However, with the cutting-edge expertise of Hortaleza, M.D., the once-prohibitively priced Glutathione is now made accessible with new Hortaleza, M.D. Illuminous Whitening Capsule! Enjoy the multi-benefits of Glutathione whitening, and anti-ageing, plus Vitamins C and E with Alpha Lipoic Acid. All in one capsule for only P39.75 each! That's 53% more affordable than other brands! Get it in packs of 30's and 10's at all HBC Home of Beauty Exclusives Stores nationwide. Now isn't that illuminating news for your skin?

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Get ready for Philippine Fashion Week

BRACE YOURSELF FOR THE 2006 Philippine Fashion Week, which will happen very soon.

Now on its ninth year, the style extravaganza promises many spectacular shows and after-parties. The Fashion Week has become the hottest showcase of Philippine fashion, endorsed and participated in by the movers and shakers of the fashion, beauty and lifestyle industries.

In the past, some 50,000 people and over 108 registered media personalities had attended the 10-day event.

Runway Productions' Audie and Joey Espino say this year's batch of designers are set to bring out striking creations. In last year's Fashion Week alone, over 90 designers from all over the Philippines wowed fashion critics. New talent from Manila, Cebu, Bacolod, Iloilo and Davao got their chance to be in the spotlight as models wearing their creations sashayed down the runways.

In other countries, Fashion Week is used as a vehicle to propel local designers and brands to key status in the global fashion business. But in the Philippines, Fashion Week is positioned as an industry event for designers to showcase their collections.

Designers who want to join the Philippine Fashion Week 2006 may call Runway Productions at 8440467 or e-mail staff@runwayproductions.com.

GERRY Katigbak creation for Philippine Fashion Week 2005

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Empire cut brings salvation

It has invaded even the Australian Open

MARIA Sharapova

CHANEL CHARADE. Reese Witherspoon's Golden Globe dress was a hand-me-down from Kirsten Dunst who also wore it at the Globes three years ago.

WELL, IT COULD happen even to the prettiest, even to Hollywood icons, to be exact.

Did you know that for a moment there, people-watchers thought there'd be a rift between **Chanel** and **Reese Witherspoon**? This was because in the recent Golden Globes Awards, Reese wore the same Chanel dress Kirsten Dunst had worn three years ago—also to the Golden Globes.

Witherspoon's publicist was gracious enough to give a statement that they harbor no grudge against Chanel. Whew!

Still in celeb-style stratosphere: the empire cut, or call it the baby doll, has invaded even tennis. At the Australian Open, **Maria Sharapova**, the "it" girl of the moment in fashion endorsements, wore a blue (periwinkle?) Nike tank that was so cut below the breast that it looked like sexy sleepwear.

Not to be outdone, Adidas tapped **Stella McCartney** to design its head-turning tennis line—empire cut as well, but with ruched skirt, in old rose, paired with a neon orange sports bra that's peeking out.

That may be it for fashion style, but then when it comes to presence, there's no one like **Martina Hingis**. That babe's got class on centercourt.

Anyway, what the fashion developments tell you is that the empire cut is the way to go. It's our salvation from our never-ending *puson* damnation.

To continue our rundown on lifestylistas' '06 plan and at what stage they are in life in the Year of the Dog:

Charisse Chuidian: "To start the fitness regimen in our hotel gym or yoga studio, to discover the joys of cooking, to be skilled in interactive media. The learning continues."

Andrew Gan: "I am at the point in my life where I am content with myself and the direction

LIFE-STYLED

Thelma Sioson San Juan

my life has taken, although there is always room for improvement. I have thankfully reached a stage where I am fortunate to be doing work I care deeply about and I am surrounded by people I love. I look forward to continuing to explore and learn because one should never stop learning—and finally to get myself to the gym."

Tonichi Nocom: "Major project is the construction of my family residence. We had to demolish our house of 47 years. Sad because it's the place I grew up in. Today my task is to oversee the construction and build it so that it will last another 47 years. With the passing away of my mother, half of my family living abroad and me being the youngest [in my view], I'm just blessed to have such good bonding with my siblings.... I have made a name for myself today in men's wear design. For me, every day is a learning process. I still have dreams and aspirations. But where I am today—not bad for a high school graduate!"

Millie Reyes: "Usually at the start of the year, I would already have made a list of major plans. But since the start of my journey with the Lord, I am not the structured person I used to be. Over the last six months, it has been a time of intense waiting for God to tell me what mission He wants for me... In my work which is catering, I bring joy to others by helping them plan their parties, but I feel I am instructed to go beyond that. He directs me to never let a day pass without doing something good for someone outside my home."

Mariano Garchitorena: "I'm

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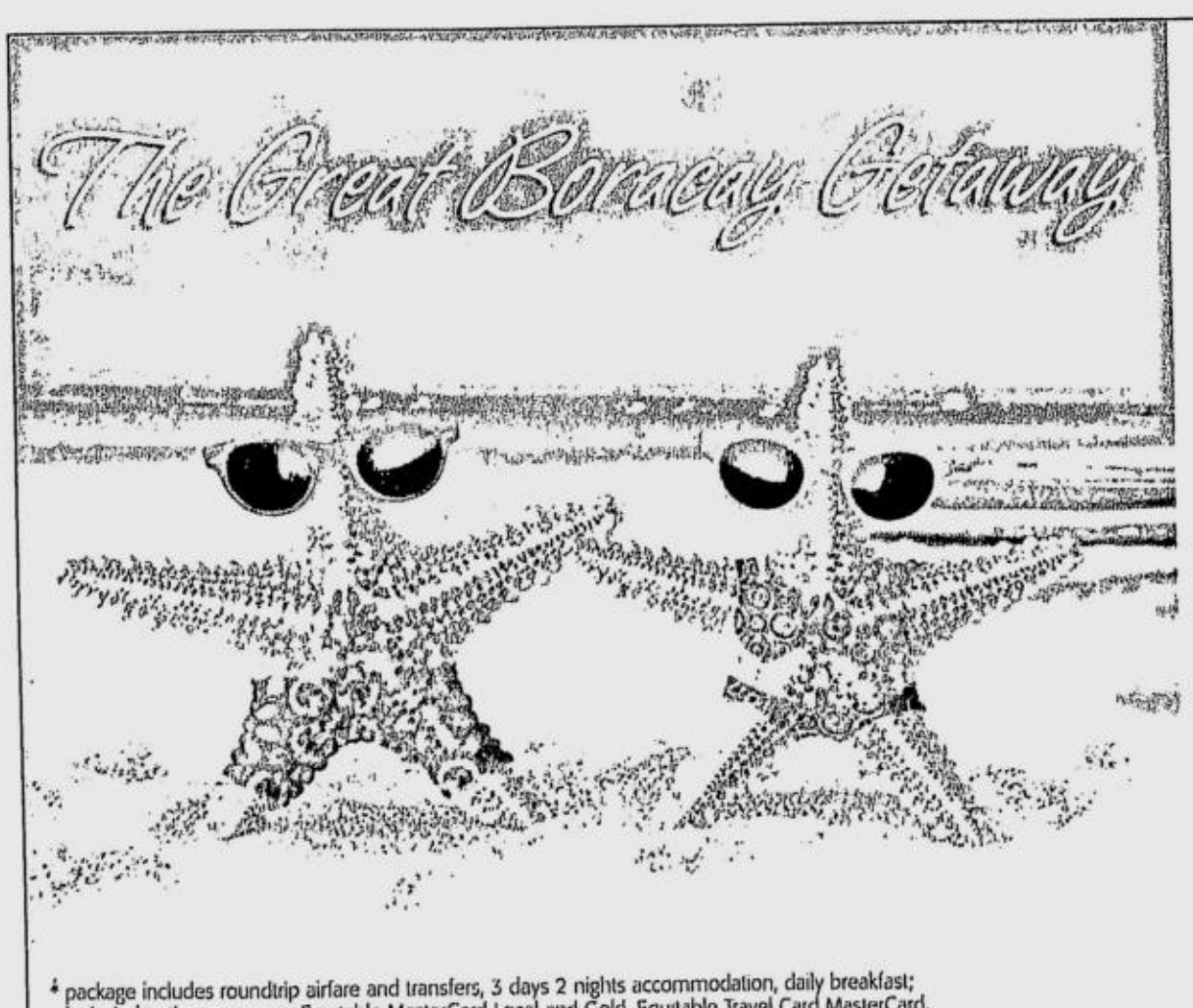

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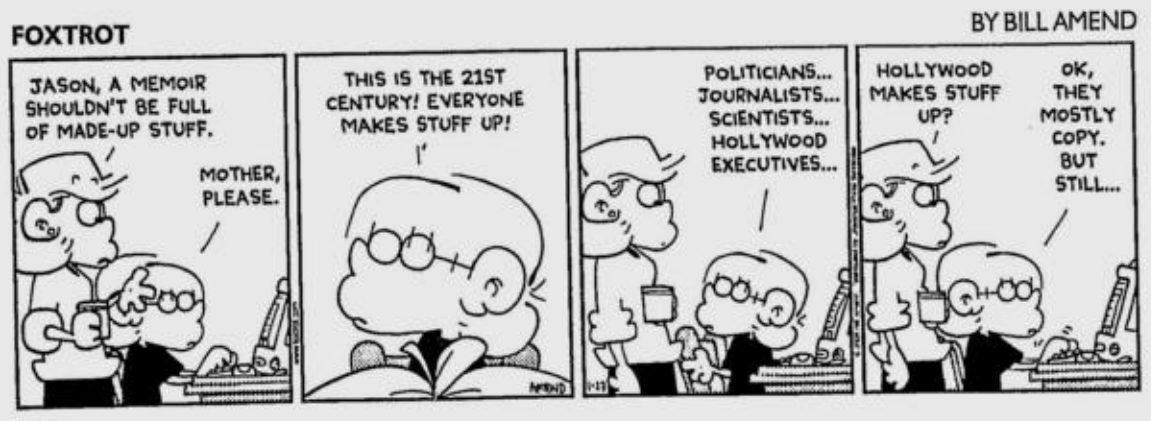

A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

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KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're bright and intelligent; this makes you a fast learner. People often discover your talent when you're very young. Your enthusiasm for life and a childlike curiosity endear you to many. You will remain forever young. In the year ahead, you'll dismantle some things and let go of something you've been involved with for nine years.
Birthdate of: Mimi Rogers, actress; Mordecai Richler, writer; Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, composer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): You can definitely promote your good name today. Bosses, parents and authority figures will give you support. Accept what is offered. Others can help you now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Make plans with someone to travel somewhere for pleasure. Something exciting awaits you. Publishing and educational adventures are also promising.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): This is a great day at work. The resources and help or assistance that you need from others will be there for you—supplies, staff, permission, approval, the works.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a marvelous day to talk to partners, close friends and members of the general public. Unexpected flirtations could take place. You're in a party mood!

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel playful, friendly and yet ready to work. Co-workers are cooperative. This is also a good day to make where you work look more attractive.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): This is definitely a playful day for your sign. Plan on fun activities with children. (It's a good day to teach young minds.) It's also a wonderful time for creative projects. Plus, romance can blossom!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Now is the time to buy attractive items for your home (or perhaps for a family member). You're in the mood to redecorate your digs! You want your home to be cozier. This is also a good day for real estate deals.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): You're a real smooth talker today! You can charm the birds off the trees. Diplomacy and tact come naturally now. Relations with siblings are warm.

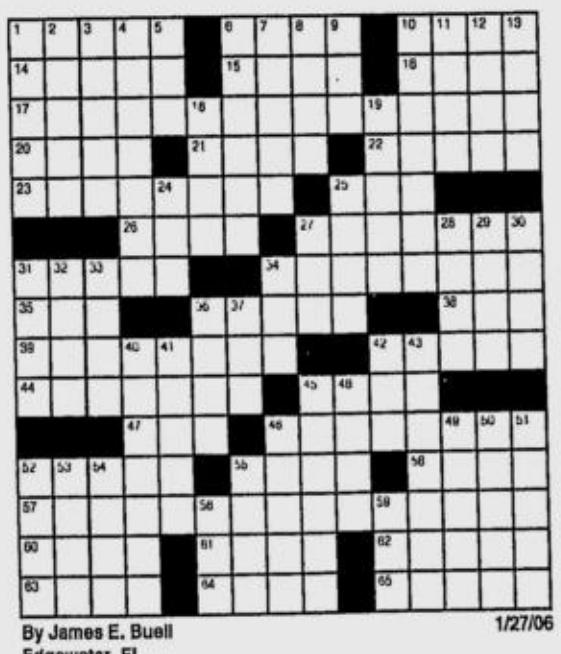
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): This is an excellent day for business and commerce. It's also a good day for shopping. All financial transactions can bring you profit or value.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Fair Venus is in your sign now, and today it makes a lovely aspect to lucky Jupiter. This makes you feel joyful, popular and appreciated by others.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Your reputation with important people looks good today. Go after what you want. Don't be afraid to speak up. It's easy to earn respect.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): What a popular day for you! Travel opportunities and chances to talk to people from different backgrounds are possible. What is certain is that you'll enjoy relating to others today. Put on your best smile.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By James E. Buell
Edgewater, FL

1/27/06

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6 Sultanate on the Arabian Sea
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14 Ice house?
15 Endangered cat
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51 Himalayan legends
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53 Story teller
54 Taj Mahal site
55 Be certain
58 Ambulance grp.
59 Singing the blues

Thursday's Puzzle Solved

P	O	M	P		A	M	B	L	E		P	R	E	P
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1/27/06

Shop more, get more fab perks

CAROL HALILI WAS RECENTLY awarded as the two millionth SM Advantage Card member at SM Makati.

Carol signed up for her card, shopped, and went on to win an Entertainment Showcase composed of a 43-inch Sony Vega Projection TV, Sony Components, Stand Speaker and Speaker System from the SM Appliance Center.

"I first learned about the SM Advantage Card from the cashiers in the SM Department Store's checkout counters," Carol recalls.

While accompanying her sister, who's also a member, on shopping trips, she realized how much fun earning points was. And then, "I decided to get my own card." Little did she know that she would be its two millionth cardholder.

Carol, a working mom with four children ages 15, 12, 10 and 5, is an SM regular.

"I just love shopping at SM because everything is there," she says.

TWO MILLIONTH SM Advantage Card member, Carol Halili, receives an entertainment showcase from SM Appliance Center represented by Chito Mendoza with Cristina Schneck, and Al Pile of SM Advantage Card

As owner of Ilocos Empanadita on Katipunan Road in Quezon City, she says: "Everything I need in the kitchen is in SM Homeworld."

Her other favorite stops include the children's section for her kids' clothes and shoes.

Shopping with the SM Advantage Card is truly rewarding, as card members are entitled to exclusive discounts on selected items at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket, Super SM Hypermarket, and other affiliated SM merchant and leisure and fun partners. The more you shop, the more reward points you earn.

At Baby & Co., for example, one can earn points and at the same time join the SM Star Baby Rewards, and win fabulous prizes for each quarter for babies up to 18 months.

Members are also entitled to Freebie Coupons at the SM Cinema, SM Bowling Center, SM Ice Skating Rink, as well as great treats at SM Storyland, Quantum Amusement, Club Synergy, Tom's World and Worlds of Fun.

Also another exclusive is a great blowout for members at the SM Food Court.

Shop and soar high by converting your points to PAL Mabuhay Miles, or avail of a P100,000 Aviva Accident Insurance for only 20 points. Members with a current balance of at least 120 points can avail of the latter reward.

Interested in being an SM Advantage Card member? Visit the SMAC counters at SM Department Store, SM Supermarket and Super SM Hypermarket. Call 8338888 or visit www.smadvantage.com.ph

ALEXI Non-wire Brassiere from Avon

Added lift, stylish fit

STYLE AND COMFORT COMBINE IN Avon Fashions' newest intimate apparel, Alexi Non-Wire Brassiere.

This fashion-inspired bra comes with stylish crisscross elastic stripes in pink, beige and mocca. Alexi's non-wire crisscross frame lifts and separates the bust to enhance its natural contour so ladies get the added lift without losing out on the comfort that they look for in a non-wire. And because its dark skin-tone color is a perfect match to Filipina skin, Alexi will look great worn under a top of any color.

Alexi Non-Wire Brassiere comes in sizes 32AB, 34AB and 36AB. Also available is Alexi 5-In-1 Panty Pack to perfectly complement this brassiere. The panties come in fashionable colors of dark skin-tone, black, red, light skin-tone and turquoise.

Ask your Avon Lady or visit Avon Boutiques in Glorietta, SM Megamall, SM Southmall and SM Fairview. Call 8642900.

Empire cut brings salvation

From page D1

at a weird age, 39, which is perhaps why I am looking forward to 40. I'd like to think I'm just getting ready for the second half of the game... I must learn how to drive, a second language, play the guitar or flute. I must go back to school, be kinder and less impatient, continue with yoga, love better, pray more, sell the Philippines more and the Peninsula, go to Batanes, walk atop a rain forest, take up sculling, and remember that if I can't do all this in '06, there's always next year. I'm not done yet."

Nes Jardin: "I will focus on jumpstarting the CCP Complex development according to the master plan. This means undertaking the bidding project for the commercial development [restaurants, cafés, specialty shops, lifestyle markets, bars, art stops] and determine the developers who'll be CCP partners. If it succeeds it will spell the financial sustainability and independence of CCP. I'm at the most challenging part of my life when I'm into new things—into the new facet of arts and culture, the economic side."

Fortune Aleta Ledesma: "I resolve first to manage my time. This is not only the key to my well-being, but also to achieving my next two resolutions—to do a better job at balancing work and life. I'd like to be productive at work and spend more time watching my granddaughter grow up... My life is fulfilled and happy just seeing all my three children become professionals and successful on their own. Watching them grow has made me fully aware that I'm a precious part of their life as their mother."

Maitel Minana: "Going to live each day to the full, continue staying healthy *(she's a cancer survivor—Ed)*, happy and at peace with my life. I'm going to spend more time giving thanks and being with people who matter most—my daughter Ysa, family and dearest of friends. I'm going to do my best in my work, travel when I can, learn African percussion, celebrate my daughter's 13th birthday and my 40th, finally file my church annulment, love unconditionally, live simply and hopefully, make a difference in the lives of underprivileged kids."

Larrie Leviste: "I'm half a century this February so my lifeline is tightly edited. There's enough for everyone... I'm headed for Pan Pacific Fashion Cable Asia Style 2 to compete with Fashion TV."

Monchet Olives: "We're going the way of Bhutan here—you know, working for Gross National Happiness, and measuring it. You know it should be about one's GNH. I can work hard, and help make this company [ABS-CBN] great again. But still I am best useful to the company and every one, if I am happy."

Indeed let's all try and go the way of Bhutan, and measure life by the quality of each passing moment. It doesn't come back, ever.

E-mail the author at tsanjuan@link.com.ph

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Your chance won't last long! Raffle entries will be accepted until January 31, 2006, 7 p.m. Hurry!

Family fun at the carnival

A NEW FUN PLACE OPENED in town early this month and it's bound to be a favorite family destination.

The EuroStar Carnival at the Fort, a spectacular touring carnival, will celebrate Chinese New Year tomorrow with the traditional lion and dragon dance at 7 p.m., followed by spectacular fireworks display at 10 p.m.

The carnival has brought in large thrill rides like the Giant Wheel, Booster, G-Force, Flipper, Flume Water Ride and Ranger; funhouse attractions like House of Horrors and Mirror Maze; and family and kiddie rides such as The Nostalgic Horse Carousel, Bumper Car, Mini Pirate and Kiddie Swing.

There are also game booths offering plenty of attractive plush toy prizes, food courts serving a wide range of carnival snacks, and a merchandise zone selling souvenirs and collectibles.

Brought in by Media Source Entertainment Inc., the EuroStar Carnival is managed by a team of Europeans who have years of experience in organizing and operating carnivals in Europe and in the USA.

The launch was complete with live entertainment, a huge fireworks display and, of course, the carnival's local endorsers, celebrity couple Kris Aquino and James Yap.

Other celebrities who attended the launch included Tonton Gutierrez and Glydel Mercado, with their daughter Aneeza Jhulia; Mark Anthony Fernandez with wife and son Melissa and Cameron; Albert Martinez and kids Alfonso, Alyanna and Alyssa, who brought friends Bert Seguinal and Mads Constantino; fashion designer Patrice Ramos and son; Philip Cu-Unjieng and his boys Quintin, Matteo and Luca; Tessa Prieto-Valdes and daughter Annika. The mayor of Taguig and his family also were there: Freddie Tiñga, wife Kaye and children Kody, Kerry and Kylie.

Those who were flying solo or child-free for the evening also had a crazy good time: Ben Chan of Bench; architect Miguel Pastor; actress Angelu de Leon; TV stars Rico of Pinoy Big Brother and Melissa of Star Circle Quest; Tanya Garcia; Ara Mina; MYX VJ Geoff Eigenmann; TV host and model Phoemela Baranda; models Bubbles Paraiso, Val de los Santos, and Robby Mananquil; Bamboo's Ira Cruz; Iago Raterta; fashion designer Rajo Laurel; the Pineapple group Angelette Calero, Anton Baretto and Leah Puyat; Rey Lañada and Bernard Beñares.

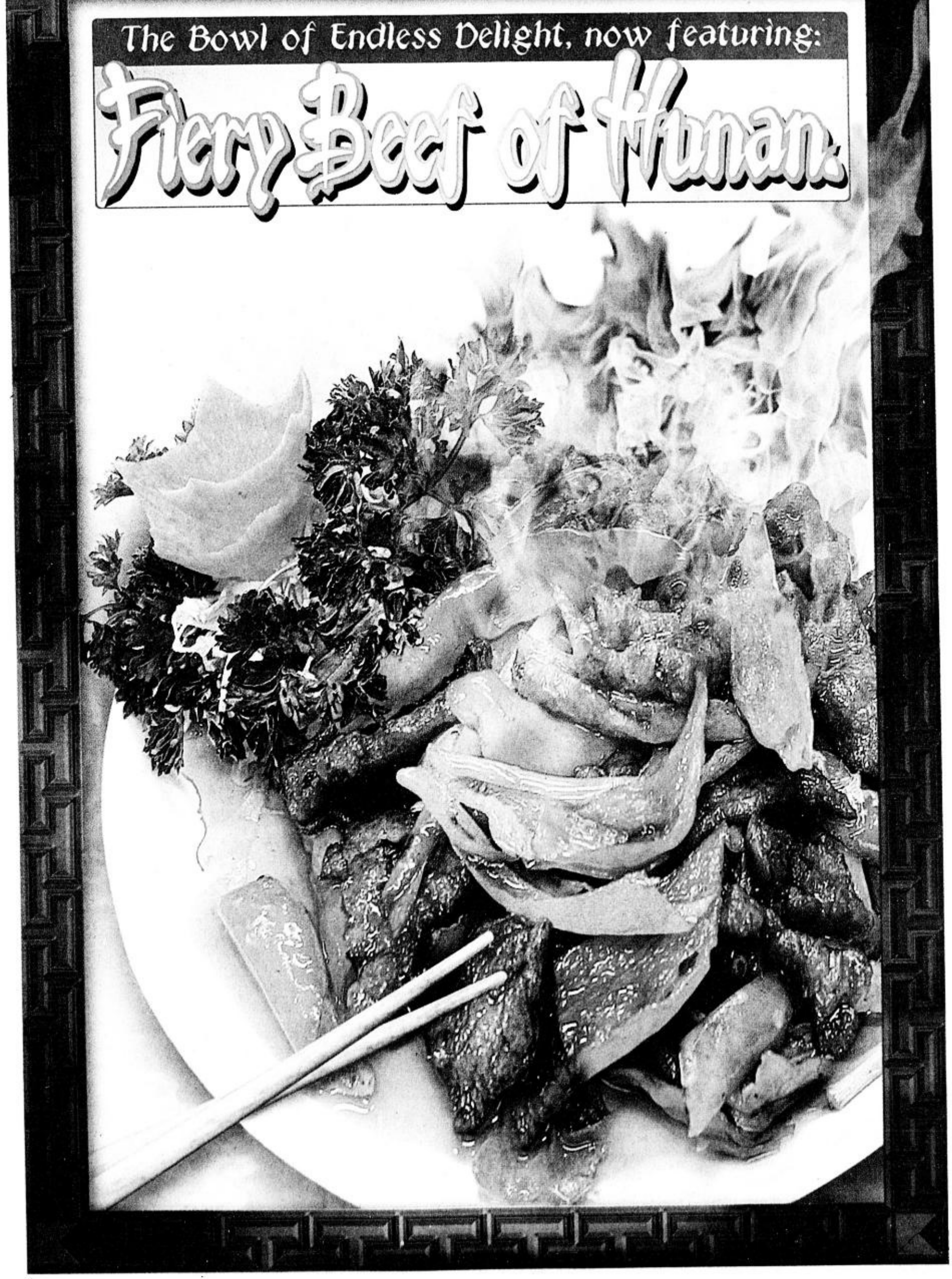
The EuroStar Carnival is located at The Fort, Bonifacio Global City, Taguig; and is open on Monday to Thursday, from 5 p.m. to 12 mn; Friday from 5 p.m.-2 a.m.; Saturday from 3 p.m.-2 a.m.; and Sunday and holidays from 2 p.m. to 12 mn.

Ticket rate from Monday to Thursday is P150 for entrance only and P300 for ride-all-you-can (inclusive of a P50 food coupon); on Friday, Saturday, Sunday and holidays, rates are P200 for entrance only and P400 for ride-all-you-can (inclusive of P50 food coupon). Call 7274084 or 7274085.

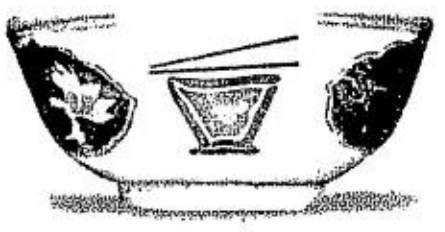
KRIS Aquino and James Yap in front of EuroStar Carnival's Carousel

KRIS in front of the Ranger

The Bowl of Endless Delight, now featuring:
Fiery Beef of Hunan



The legend of the Bowl of Endless Delight!



For centuries, men have sought the Legendary Bowl of Endless Delight. Our ancestors searched by day and dreamed at night for its heavenly offering. Each dish it concocts would fill a wise man's mouth with luscious flavors as he is enlightened in heart, in soul and heavy in the belly. Ah! With dishes made from the freshest gifts of the Secret Gardens, the Heavenly Farms and the Seven Seas one would surely go mad at the longing.

Fortunately for us, the centuries-long wait for the legendary bowl is over! The gifts of the celebrated Bowl of Endless Delight can now be tasted at the Super Bowl of China. Here you can get delicious, mouth-watering and truly authentic Chinese culinary wonders. From succulent Lemon Chickens; luscious Beef and Broccoli; to roast suckling Pigs, the list of fulfilling dishes goes on. But, this is just the beginning for the Bowl of Endless Delight found only at the Super Bowl of China.

SUPER BOWL OF CHINA

Fulfilling.

Long ago after a great battle, the Warriors of Hunan celebrated their victory by making a dish to honor their fiery spirit and bravery. They selected the juiciest and most tender beef; and sliced it to perfection. The moist meat was dipped in the secret Hunan spicy sauce. This perfect blend of flavors was called the Fiery Beef of Hunan. Delighted by the fare, the men kept the secrets of the spiced treat in a legendary bowl. For centuries, men searched for this scrumptious meal, long hidden in the Bowl of Endless Delight, now known as the Super Bowl of China.

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SM City Fairview • Araneta Gateway Mall • SM City San Lazaro • Tomas Morato • Big Buddha Greenbelt 3 • Big Buddha Blue Wave Macapagal

LIFESTYLE

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and Jenni Epperson

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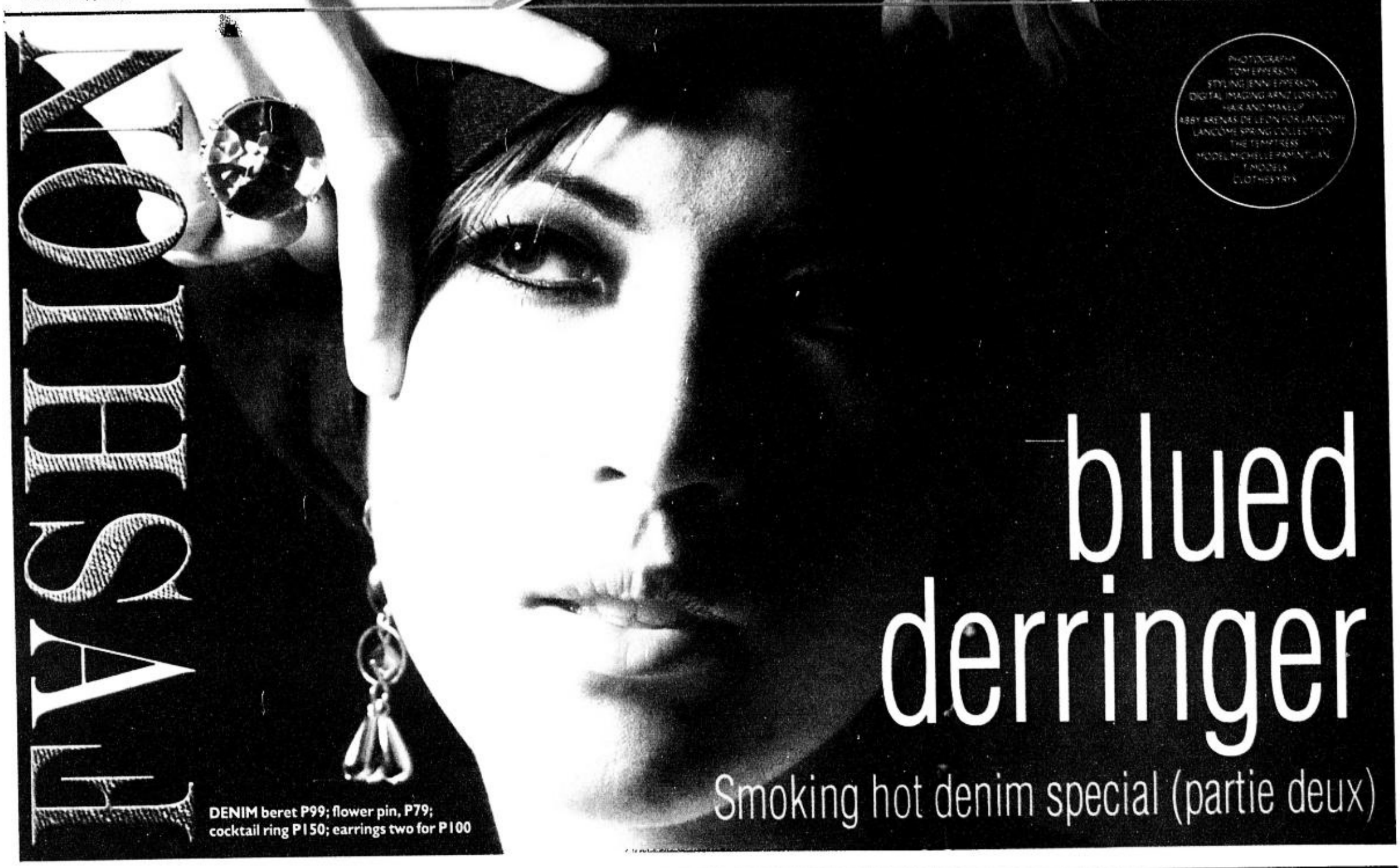


Factory girl

1 A YOUNG LADY THAT works in a mill or factory. 2. Title of Rolling Stones song. 3. Girls that hung out in Andy Warhol's NY studio called the Factory. 4. An indie movie that started production in late 2005. It will tell the story of mid-'60s 'it girl' and Andy Warhol superstar Edie Sedgwick, to be portrayed by Sienna Miller.

Jenni Epperson

Not since the '60s with barbiturate Barbies and amphetamine Annies lodging in the King of Pop Art's studio, the Factory, has there been so much buzz about young girls who live, love and lust about art, men, drugs and sex.

Celebrity party gazelles such as Kate, Mary Kate, Nicole, Lindsay and Paris may very well be Warhol's Factory myrmidons had he still been alive.

But it was the pixie aristocratic ingénue of that pop era, Edie Sedgwick, that really embodied the energetic spirit of the youth. Her style—a mix of Parisian chic and downtown posh—has been copied, rehashed and used as inspiration.

Chandelier earrings, panda eyes, baby-doll dresses paired with black stockings and leotards were a few of Edie's signature look. It shocked Manhattan's social set in the '60s, but catapulted her to style icon status.

Denims may not be part of Edie's wardrobe, but I'm sure if she saw today's denim confections like skinny capris, hot black denim minis, or bejeweled and embroidered pairs, she and Andy would purchase matching drainpipes, the way they cloned themselves with matching platinum hair and striped T-shirts.

After gaining 15 lb last year, I admit the closest I can get to an Edie Sedgwick look is my new Sienna Miller mane by Henri Calayag. But even that is far from Edie's painted silver tresses, as mine has more "Ragnarok" highlights in fiery red and hot orange.

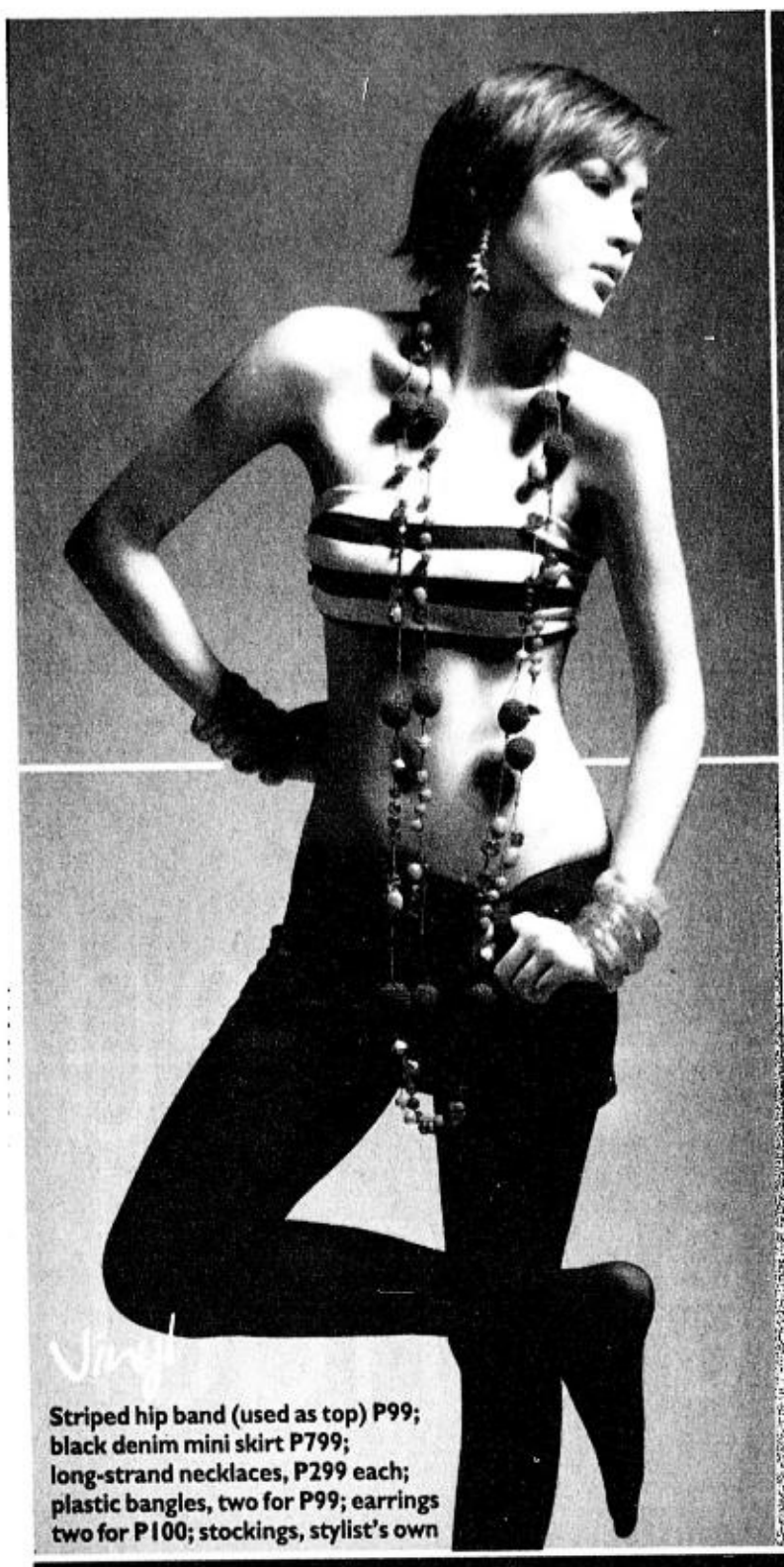
While some of us may not yet be ready for Edie's skintight accoutrements, we can still enjoy the swinging '60s style of baby-doll dresses, graphic prints and punchy colors.

You don't have to take drugs or be a celebrity to look smashing. Heck, you don't even have to be rich to look like a millionaire. With inspirations like Edie, Sienna or Kate, plus some imagination, you, too, can look like a Warhol superstar!

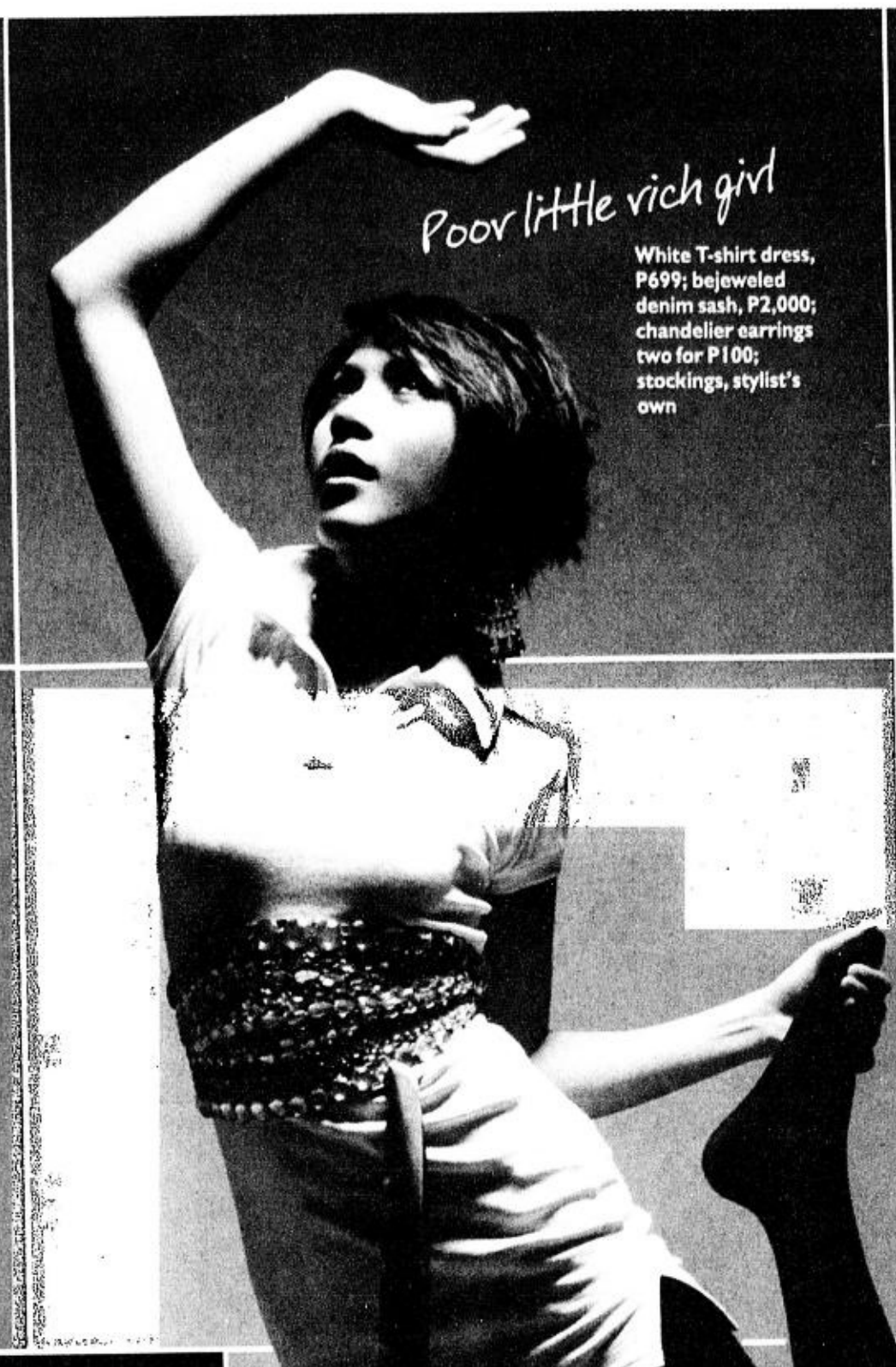
E-mail the author at jfashion@inquirer.com.ph

FACTORY/ E2

Why don't you...
Hug me
bench_BODY
body spray
Scents by Kris Aquino
bench_BODY
www.benchbody.com



Striped hip band (used as top) P99; black denim mini skirt P799; long-strand necklaces, P299 each; plastic bangles, two for P99; earrings two for P100; stockings, stylist's own

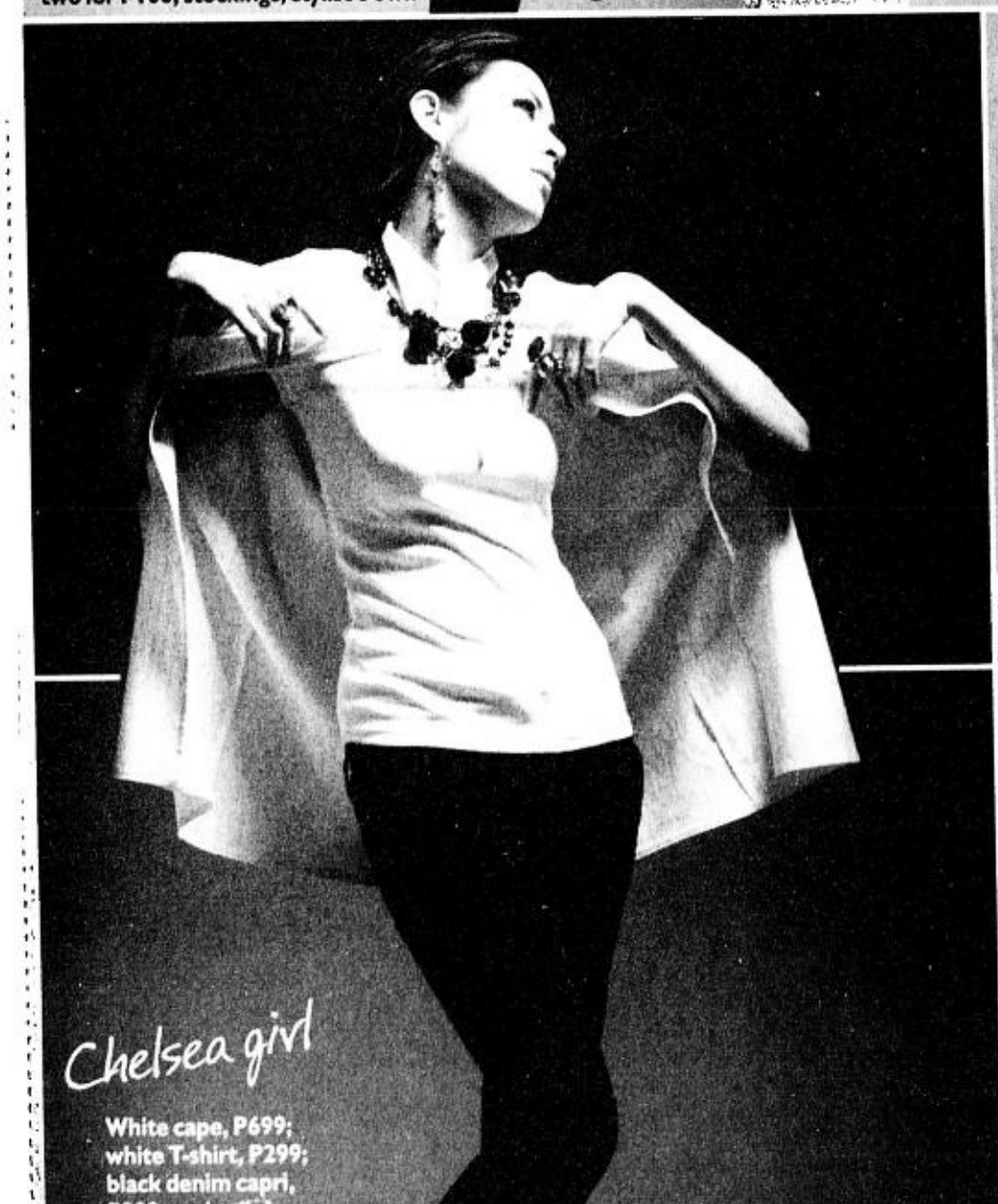


Poor little rich girl

White T-shirt dress, P699; bejeweled denim sash, P2,000; chandelier earrings two for P100; stockings, stylist's own

Not your typical denim dungarees or run-of-the-mill jeans, this pair is all about tight trappings with cool accessories from YRYS.

PHOTOGRAPHY TOM EPPERSON (8903621/0917-8432420)
STYLING JENNI EPPERSON
DIGITAL IMAGING ARNZ LORENZO (0919-2085558)
HAIR AND MAKEUP ABBY ARENAS-DE LEON FOR LANCÔME; LANCÔME SPRING COLLECTION: THE TEMPTRESS
MODEL MICHELLE PAMINTUAN, T-MODELS
CLOTHES YRYS.
SPECIAL THANKS TO GAYLE GOZUM



Chelsea girl

White cape, P699; white T-shirt, P299; black denim capri, P999; cocktail rings, P150 each; earrings two for P299; necklace P299

From page E1

Get Edie's look:

Contrasting looks. Short hair with long earrings, pastel baby-doll dresses with opaque black stockings and intricate accessories will give you the same Edie Sedgwick style high.

Black-eye beauty. Pile on mascara and sweep coal eye color on your lids.

Do long lines. Vertical, horizontal stripes will give you that much-needed style jolt.

Hug me. Clothes cut close to the body give you a leaner silhouette.

Fashion FLASH

Garden 'schus'

PUT A SPRING IN YOUR STEP and pick from the best. Schu's spring/summer collection takes you to new heights with wedges and platforms. Stand out in summer shades of azure and grass that beat the cityscape's vibrant hues. Or opt for fancier footwork with floral prints for stylish strides that frolic under the city sun. *JE*

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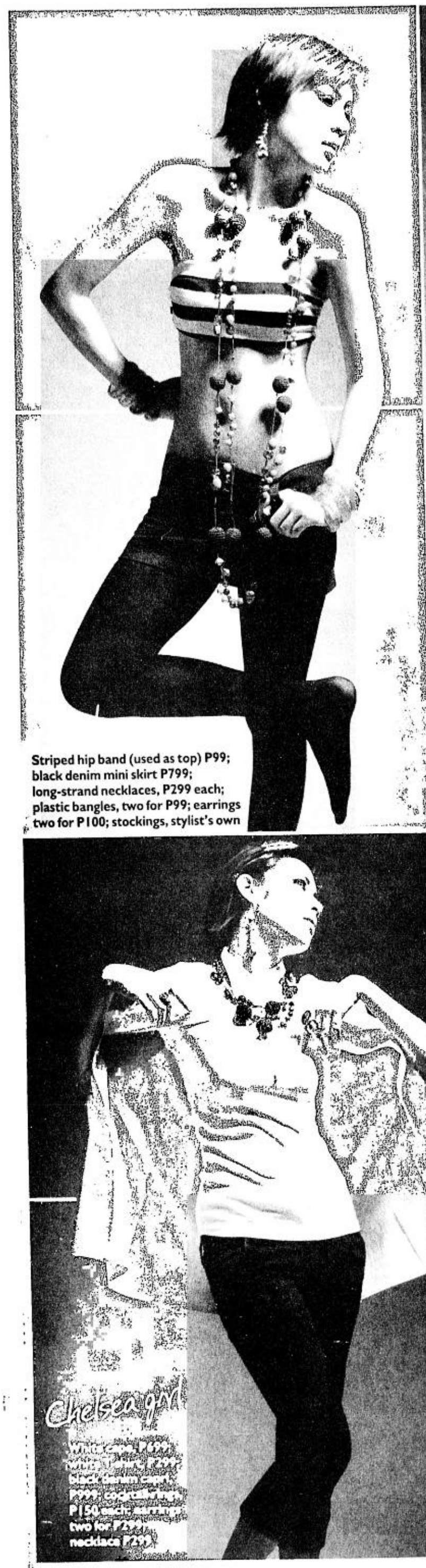

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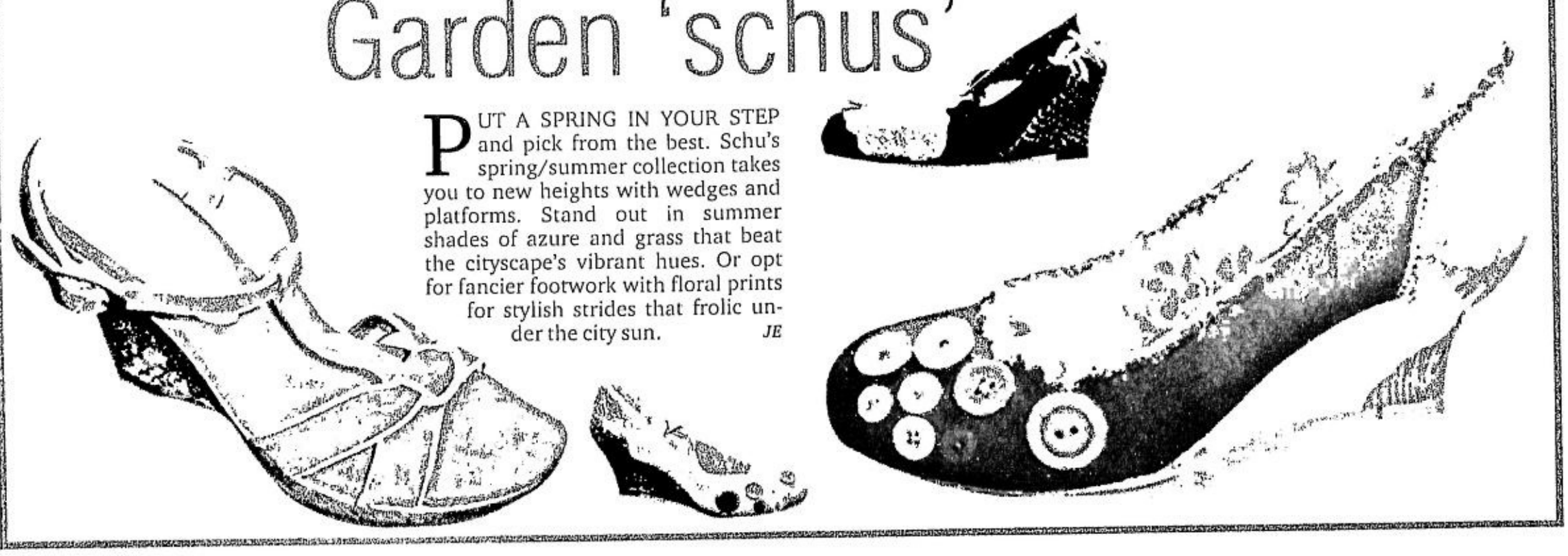

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The white stuff

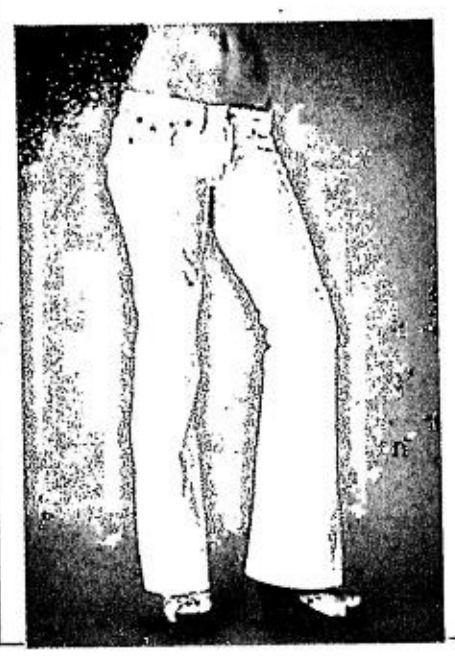
Editors' Picks

Apples's picks

Y3 straight-leg jeans, P8,199, and Fred Perry top, available at Homme et Femme; 7 for All Mankind boot-cut jeans, P8,950, available at Ab Fit

Apples says...
Channel Jackie O. by matching last season's seriously black tops with white jeans, ballerina flats, a strand of pearls and big sunglasses.

Jenni's picks



TRUE Religion (Joey), around P9,999, and Chip and Pepper (Pamela), around P12,999, both available at Mix in Greenbelt 3

Jenni says...
White jeans paired with a gold lame top is a hot combo on and off the beach! The metallic material provides a sizzling contrast to your pristine denim.

THE SIZZLING SUMMER IS almost upon us. One can literally feel the shift in seasons as the sun's once toasty rays turn to searing waves that beat down on the hot city pavement. It's definitely time to find ways to stay and look effortlessly cool.

Fashion-wise, the best way to freshen up is by wearing pristine, clean white, which was predictably present in spring/summer '06 runways all over the world.

Floaty summer dresses and breezy separates in all shades of white dominated designer and retail collections. Ralph Lauren featured flirty and feminine cotton eyelet dresses, Francisco Costa of Calvin Klein presented a wide array of roomy and creamy cotton voile pieces, while Nicolas Ghesquiere showed cutting-edge Cristobal cocktail bubble-inspired creations in the purest ivory.

Even ubiquitous blue jeans lightened up as thoroughly bleached to totally white versions surfaced. Needless to say, white denims are major must-haves this season!

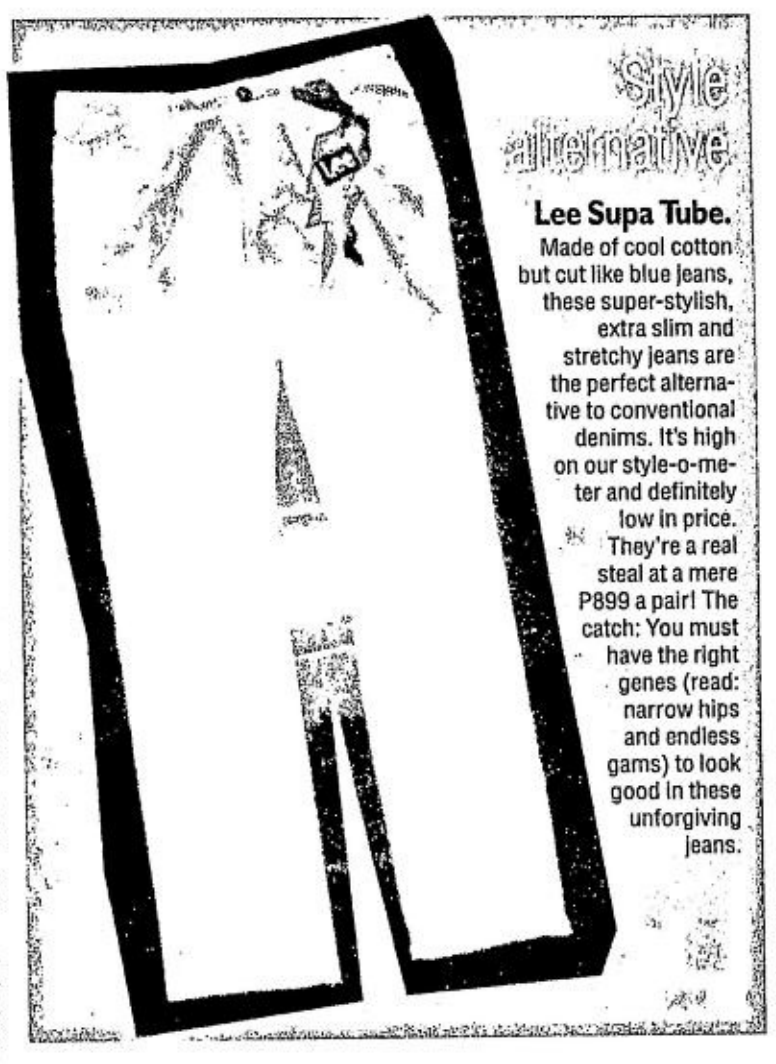
Those with a leg up on style have probably already found their perfect pair. But the vast majority is most likely just starting the search.

We've made things a bit easier by scouring retail stores in the metro for a selection of white jeans that are high on style. And although there seems to be a dearth out there (we could not find any in more affordable shops like Bench, Levi's or Lee, but we're hoping that these stores will carry white denims before summer officially begins), we were able to gather a good-enough range to suit various styles and body types.

So, with a bit of luck, you'll probably find just the pair to update your wardrobe and welcome the sizzling hot summer season with. *AAS*

THE WHITE DENIM DIRECTORY

Brand	Price	Style	Where To Buy
Chip and Pepper	around P12,999	Pamela	Mix, Greenbelt 3
Grab	P2,895	Rigid hipster/ Boot leg	All Chocolate boutiques
Grab	P2,895	Strut hipster/ Panel leg	All Chocolate boutiques
7 for All Mankind	P8,950	Boot cut	Ab Fit, Doña Consolacion Bldg., Jupiter St., Makati
7 for All Mankind	P8,950	Distressed flares	Ab Fit, Doña Consolacion Bldg., Jupiter St., Makati
True Religion	around P9,999	Joey	Mix, Greenbelt 3
Y3	P8,199	Low waist/ Straight leg	Homme et Femme, Shangri-La Plaza



Style alternative

Lee Supa Tube.
Made of cool cotton but cut like blue jeans, these super-stylish, extra slim and stretchy jeans are the perfect alternative to conventional denims. It's high on our style-o-meter and definitely low in price. They're a real steal at a mere P899 a pair! The catch: You must have the right genes (read: narrow hips and endless gams) to look good in these unforgiving jeans.

Bench button down short sleeved polo over crewneck

Want Sam?

Far Surigao is hometown for this unassuming balikbayan from Ohio. His smile showing his pearly white teeth is a true turn-on, girls definitely go gaga over the sight of this guy. His 49-day stint on the reality show, Pinoy Big Brother, charmed the hearts of many Filipino girls. Fame has totally made him shine he's everywhere. He's on every sitcom and commercial on the boob tube.

Now Sam Milby just could not get enough of the celebrity status he gained in no time. He has been signed up as one of the latest image models of the country's retail giant, Bench. His presence has become very strong in print ads over major broadsheets and glossies, gigantic billboards adorning major thoroughfares, and interiors of almost every Bench outlet in the country.

Along with his signature prop, a black guitar and his fantastic smile, Sam exudes a distinctive character that earned him to become a Bench image model. His modesty besides his good looks will surely take him to farther heights.

CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK

Penshoppe

Relaxed, loose fit, low-rise jeans with bleach blast and vintage tacks

Price: P1,099

Style factor: True to the brand's market positioning, this particular pair has all the elements designed to appeal to the young and the restless. Interesting details include crease points and uneven sections which give it a vintage look and feel that are definitely not meant for the old.

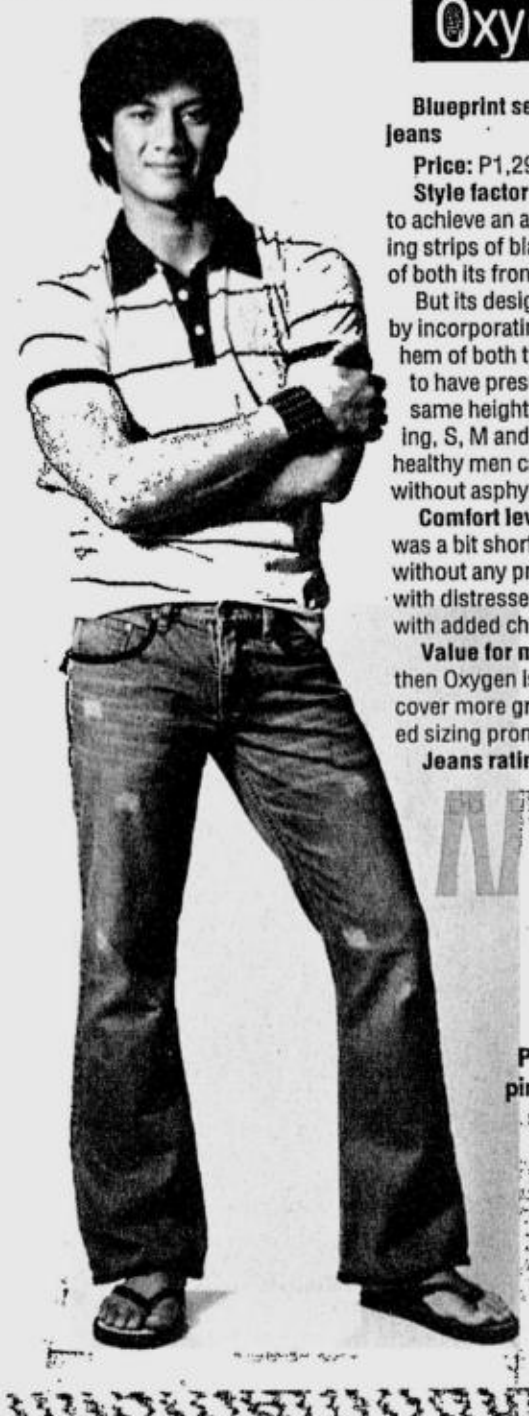
Comfort level: Moderately light is right for its youth market with abs as flat as washboards.

Value for money: If this particular style is to capture more young warm bodies, then Penshoppe should lower its price just a wee bit more. Otherwise, the mass brand should start positioning this particular pair to a more mature market with a bigger purchasing power.

Jeans rating:

PENSHOPPE jeans, P1,099; and inner graphic tee, P349. Gas white long sleeved polo shirt, P5,995. Oxygen necklace, P199; and braided cuff, P229

Oxygen



Blueprint semi-flared, bleached and faded jeans

Price: P1,299

Style factor: This hip pair, which is bleached to achieve an antique feel, comes with interesting strips of black leather that adorn the edges of both its front and back pockets.

But its designer seemed to have overdone it by incorporating the same details around the hem of both the jeans' legs. The design seems to have presumed that all wearers have the same heights. And if I were to go by its sizing, S, M and L and so on, not too many healthy men can slip into a pair of Oxygen without asphyxiating.

Comfort level: Although the pair I tried on was a bit short, I was able to fit into a size M without any problems. Blueprint is lightweight with distressed points that impart the jeans with added character.

Value for money: If you're the slim type, then Oxygen is for you. But if Blueprint is to cover more ground, it should address its limited sizing pronto.

Jeans rating:

OXYGEN Blueprint premium denim, P1,299; and pink collared shirt, P599

The perfect pair

Let's grade the top jeans and see what fits you best

By Alex Y. Vergara

EVER SINCE THE FIRST pair of Levi's came out in 1873, jeans have metamorphosed from lowly workmen's clothes to outrageously expensive designer brands created by the hottest names in fashion for the most discriminating fashion plates.

Inno Sotto wasn't kidding when he said he wished he had beaten Levi's in inventing the jeans, which, he said, would likely outlast even the most radical techniques, combinations, fabrics and silhouettes introduced by legendary designers in the last century.

Indeed, from dark blue, jeans now come in a mélange of colors, cuts, washes and silhouettes designed to appeal to a wider range of ages, body types, genders and sexual orientations. Yet despite the jeans' ubiquity, finding the right pair isn't as easy as unbuttoning a button fly.

That's why INQUIRER Fashion asked some of the country's leading jeans manufacturers, local and foreign brands, to lend us their best pairs for fitting by men.

This effort also serves as our way of introducing Chic Check, a review of sorts concerning everything and anything about fashion. As long as space and time allow, we hope to make this corner a regular feature.

This initial review is not definitive and exhaustive; it focuses on only one pair from each brand. Since fit is quite subjective, a pair of jeans is only as perfect as its wearer's body.

The survey zeroes in on such basics as style factor, value for money and comfort level. Style factor took into account such features as detailing, stitching, fabric and wash. A pair that has managed to remain snug no matter the fabric and silhouette passes the all-important comfort grade.

By the way, guys, when buying a pair of jeans, don't simply be content to slip it on. Since the body is designed to move, it's important that your jeans should move along with you.

Give it the sit-down test by bending your knees and squatting on the floor until your behind almost touches the ground. Only then will you know if the jeans have enough room around the thighs and crotch area. And even if low-rise jeans are still red-hot, allowing one's butt crack to peek from underneath your pants is definitely uncool. In short, there's a thin crack, er, line between sexy and indecent exposure.

While it probably isn't surprising for some expensive brands such as Diesel, Marithé + Francois Girbaud and Levi's to produce relatively long pairs of jeans—a perennial concern for long-limbed beings like me—local brands such as Bench and Folded & Hung also came up with jeans with unbelievably long leg rooms. That's progress! Now, if you can only spare a precious inch or two of denim more.

Bench Overhauled cargo jeans, at P699.75, is likewise notable for its unbelievably low price and stylish take on an old staple. On the opposite end of the price inseam is Diesel, which can set you back at—hold your breath—P12,250. Marithé + François Girbaud, at P9,900 a pop, is a close second. The amount is almost half a semester's worth of tuition in Manila's more decent universities.

Durability is also one attribute I didn't touch on. It will probably take several washings for your favorite pair to become like your second skin. Only then perhaps can you do a Brooke Shields and shout to the world that nothing dare comes between you and your, er, blue jeans.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com.ph

Bench

Overhauled handscraped loose fit cargo pants with three huge side pockets and slashed spots on both knees. Don't be surprised as the pair comes with a strip of sandpaper to help its wearer "hand-rub" preferred spots.

Price: P699.75

Style factor: This is one of the most interesting and by far cheapest pairs in our lineup. Although it's a bit on the heavy side, the pair comes with long and roomy straight legs with interesting side pockets and distressed points for the young and the feeling young.

Comfort level: This roomy pair is ideal for people with full thighs and legs, but who are allergic to anything close to baggy. Despite its considerable weight, this particular pair will never be branded as boring.

Value for money: How can you go wrong with such an unbelievably low price?

Jeans rating:

BENCH Overhauled denim handscraped cargo pants, P699.75; belt, P279.75

Rating system: symbolized by 1 to 5 pairs of jeans, with 5 being the highest

PHOTOGRAPHY
ERWIN BARLETA/
EDGE OF LIGHT
STYLING MILET ARZAGA
GROOMING
ABBY ARENAS-DE LEON
FOR LANCÔME

Diesel

Yarik button-fly, straight-cut jeans in uneven finish and a pair of back-pocket embroidery and zippers with leather tassels

Price: P12,250

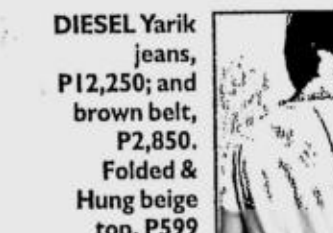
Style factor: This pair is perhaps the closest you can get to owning a pair of couture jeans without hiring a designer. The back-pocket embroidery has a vintage feel to it that reminds us of such jeans of yore as Valentino and Sergio Valente.

And the best part is there are no "secrets" as far as this pair goes even if you turned it inside out. Apart from its triple stitching along the seams, Diesel's edgings are the cleanest and most inventive (imagine its use of thread with gradating colors) I've seen.

Comfort level: Apart from its smooth fabric, the pair manages to stay lightweight despite all those details.

Value for money: Quite pricey, but perhaps worth it because of the workmanship and details that went into the pair.

Jeans rating:



DIESEL Yarik jeans, P12,250; and brown belt, P2,850. Folded & Hung beige top, P599

CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK CHIC CHECK

Folded & Hung

Premium, zip-fly denim jeans in relaxed fit with dark slate finish

Price: P1,199
Style factor: This dark, classic five-pocket edition is bound to be a certified hit among conservative dressers and those fond of fancy tops. Indeed, why go for scene-stealing bottoms when you have a top that says it all? If you're the quite and elegant type, this pair is for you.
Comfort level: Its clean workmanship makes up for the jeans' relatively ample weight.
Value for money: With the exception of Oxygen, this pair is pricier than two other local brands featured in this survey. But if it stands the test of time, F&H may yet become a staple in many a man's wardrobe.
Jeans rating:

FOLDED & Hung premium denim jeans, P1,199. Diesel pale-blue embroidered polo shirt, P5,850

Levi's

Engineered, straight-fit, button-fly jeans in semi-dark finish and with mercury-worn patch on one of the back pockets

Price: P2,999.50
Style factor: The button-fly pair is a bit loose compared to the granddaddy of all button-fly jeans—the classic Levi's 501. Following the style and silhouette of the Engineered Jeans Levi's launched some years ago, this latest incarnation also comes with roomy legs and low back pockets. The nude-colored flap on one of the back pockets sets it apart from its predecessor.
Comfort level: If you like your jeans to be a bit roomy around the thighs and low on the crotch area, this moderately lightweight Levi's is for you.
Value for money: If you go for classic pieces, you can never go wrong with this pair of jeans from the San Francisco-based company. Budding denim lovers should begin their adventure with Levi's.
Jeans rating:

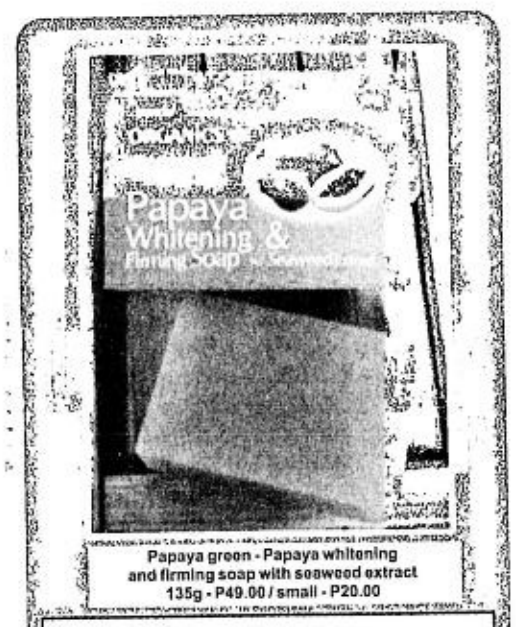
LEVI'S Engineered Jeans' mercury-worn, P2,999.50. Topman layered white shirt, P1,395. Bench striped belt, P279.75. Oxygen necklace, P129

Marithé + Francois Girbaud

Straight-cut, moderately dark and distressed Sightix jeans with a series of slashes on the—my, oh, my—fly area

Price: P9,900
Style factor: This pair, with slivers of underwear fabric peeking out from what appears like scratches, is pretty suggestive (Boy, whoever did that was certainly one strong, angry woman or man). While the bold and the brave will have no problems basking in such details, the shrinking violet is well-advised to try a more conservative pair.
Comfort level: Because of its slim legs, the pair looks sexy and is actually lightweight. And the pair of secret pockets on the back are quite welcome during these dangerous times.
Value for money: If you're into unusual details, then you probably won't mind plunking almost 10 grand for a distressed pair of Sightix. Keep the jeans away from oldies, though, as they may not understand why a seemingly perfect pair of brand new jeans is deliberately destroyed to achieve such a bizarre effect.
Jeans rating:

MARITHÉ + François Girbaud Sightix jeans, P9,900; and gray long-sleeved shirt, P5,500. Bench belt, P129.75; and necklace, P180



Papaya green - Papaya whitening and firming soap with seaweed extract
135g - P49.00 / small - P20.00

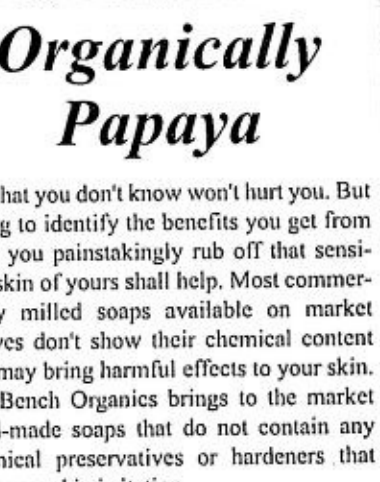
Organically Papaya

What you don't know won't hurt you. But caring to identify the benefits you get from what you painstakingly rub off that sensitive skin of yours shall help. Most commercially milled soaps available on market shelves don't show their chemical content that may bring harmful effects to your skin. But Bench Organics brings to the market hand-made soaps that do not contain any chemical preservatives or hardeners that can cause skin irritation.

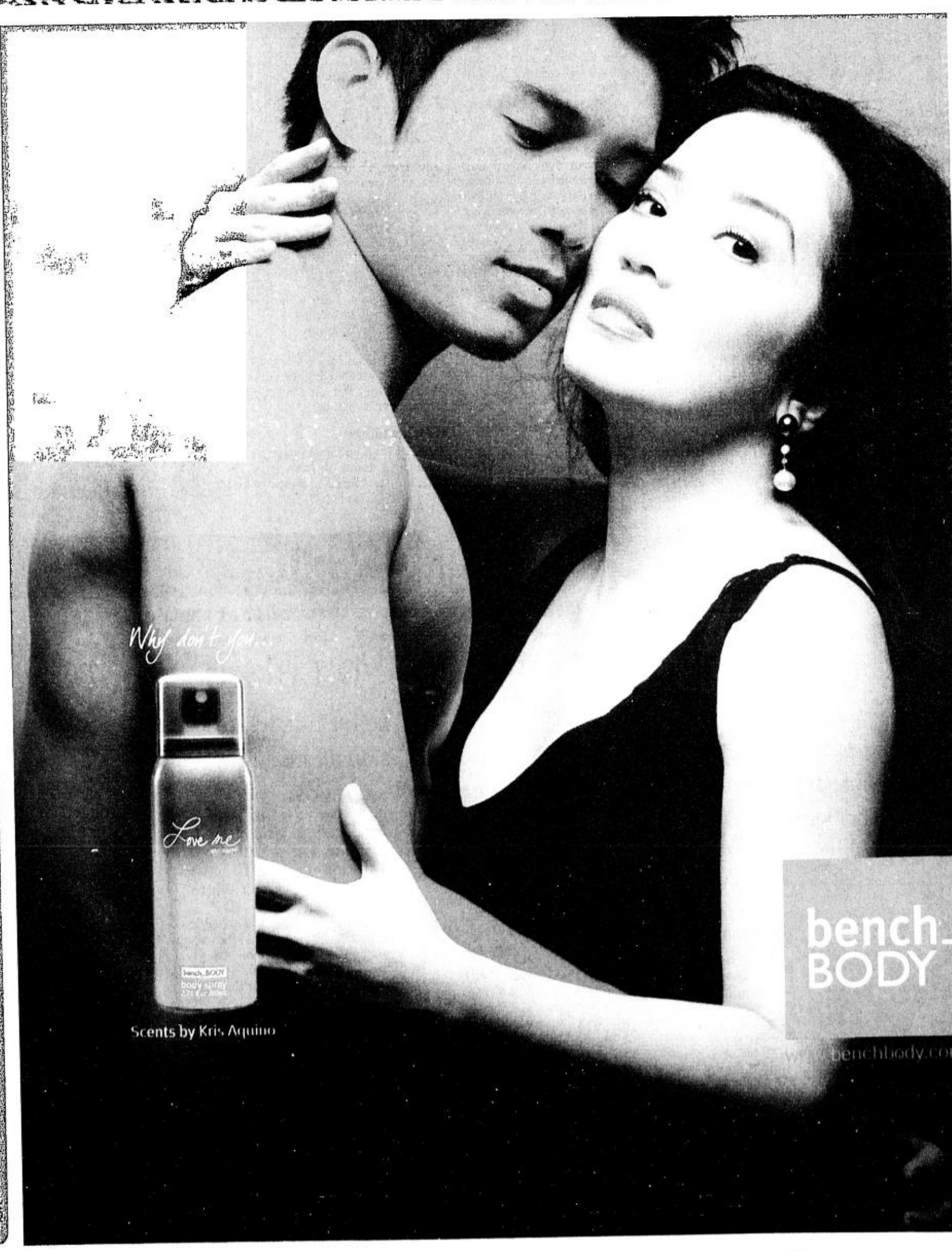
Be as beautiful as you want to be with Papaya Whitening and Firming Soap with Seaweed Extract. Made of the finest papaya and bearberry extracts, it peels off unwanted skin cells while its natural seaweed components cleanse and help tighten the skin leaving it younger-looking and free from all blemishes.

Papaya Whitening and Moisturizing Soap with Milk is best for you to maintain that delicate, pure and clean canvass with papaya and bearberry extracts that gently exfoliate and whiten skin. It is especially formulated with milk and shea butter to make skin silky soft to touch.

Discover your true beauty with Bench Organics Papaya Soap. It naturally whitens and brings out the lasting glow in you. Beauty is skin-deep with Bench Organics Papaya Soap. Get it at your nearest Bench and Herbench outlets nationwide.



Papaya whitening and moisturising with milk / 135g -P45.00



GET playful with Shu Uemura's Eye Light Pencil

Tantal-eyes

From page E8

ended pencil for the eyes in yellow and light blue. These soft pastel colors in matte textures stay true to the skin to create a strong look.

Shu Uemura's new collection, Sweet Mode, has the most savory colors and fun textures. From Eye Jellys to Glo Ons, and Sweet Lip Gloss, the collection is pure fun.

The third look is smokey. Normally used with a dark shade, this look is high drama and is for the older, more sophisticated set. Steven applied black eyeshadow on Kelly's lids. He layered the color and brushed from the inner lid going out.

Make sure to blend the color well. Make sure the color is closest to the lid. Line undereyes with the same shade as the eyeshadow, in this case black. If you are in search of an eyeliner that stays the whole day and doesn't smear, try Chanel's waterproof eyeliner.

Whenever I need to buy an eyeliner, the first counter I check is Chanel. If you are lucky, it will still have its limited-edition shades that are a prize to have.

SMOKIN' hot with Chanel waterproof eyeliner

Woman's breast friend

MAKEOVER 911

Kinny Salas

FILIPINAS ARE BREAST size-obsessed. Since the start of my writing career there have been persistent requests from women who bemoan the fact that they are A-cups and below. The requests are, of course, along the line of "I want bigger breasts, but please do not advise me to get: 1. Breast implants—too drastic; 2. Breast enhancing pills—anything ingested may have scary side effects; 3. Gel cup enhancers and padded bra—very hot but not real solutions.'"

Gee, talk about tough customers! They have even grown in number and are demanding better answers. Their ultimate dream? To be a B-cup!

If you are aiming for more than that, like going from a small A and below to a full C or higher, put down the article as I do not have the solution for you.

The answer came to me as I was having lunch with a good friend. My problem was that since I had lost more weight in preparation for the holidays, my chest size had also frittered away.

I was happy with my body size; I had gone from a 34 down to a 32, but I wanted to stay the same cup size.

My friend was a real full D-cup who was complaining that hers just kept getting bigger because of this painless chest firming treatment she was undergoing faithfully.

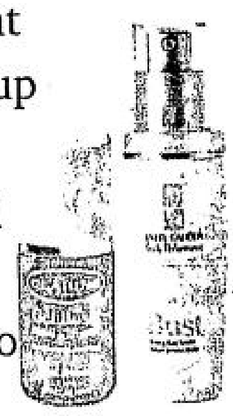
Her "twins" were "very" front and center even without a bra that if I hadn't known her for quite some time, I would have suspected they were implants.

She was now a double-D despite losing weight.

(Have you guessed my friend's identity yet?)

I booked an appointment at her Makati clinic for the Cosmecanique Lift 6 machine, a favorite of mine. It painlessly firms the skin on my face, giving the jaw and cheekbones more definition.

A treatment that firms up the face works well on the breasts, too



Lift 6 works by stimulating blood circulation and firming the skin tissue on the targeted area. I don't know why it hasn't occurred to anyone else that it could work the same way for the chest till now.

My aesthetician was Maricel, who washed the chest area first then proceeded to administer the Lift 6 machine for 15 minutes on each side.

Understatement

Painless is an understatement. It was so relaxing I dozed off each time. The feeling is a kneading and light pinching motion like an expert facialist's massage—but on the chest area instead of the face.

The aesthetician recommended initially having it done three times a week for a total of 13 sessions. Maintenance is once every three weeks to a month.

I went from a small C to a perfect C after four sessions, then a full C after nine. The cost is P2,500 per session, and by the end of the 13th session I was a perfect D.

Please bear in mind that the progress varies from person to person, and most treatments can achieve only a full cup size. Those with a tendency to gain on the breast area do tend to get noticeably bigger.

Don't worry, even if your measurement hardly changes, the breasts will still look bigger as the now firmer tissue is pulled front and center much like implants. This explains why implants look bigger than real breasts of the same cup size.

Some more notes: 1. Cup sizes mentioned are based on American measurements. 2. Having the treatment more often doesn't mean you will keep growing and will go from an A to a C- or D-cup. There is a limit to how much your chest will expand.

I did not go back for maintenance and have gone back down to a full C after a month-and-a-half and stayed there. There are, of course, fluctuations due to the monthly cycle, but I have stayed pretty much in the same range.

Maricel said the treatments even worked better when used with firming creams. I have continued using the firming creams, and they seem to make the results last longer. My recommended brands are: Estée Lauder Bust Toning Serum, Clarins Bust Beauty Gel and Shiseido Body Creator Firming Cream.

Bra-cup size trivia: American, Spanish and Australian sizes are the biggest.

If you are an A-cup in an American brand like Victoria's Secret and Maidenform, you are most likely a B-cup in European sizes like Triumph, Natori, Cosabella and Marks & Spencer as the difference ranges from half an inch to an inch.

If you are in the small range of that cup size, you can still fit in an A. Asian-fit brands are Wacoal, Bench and Avon. You will definitely be at least a B-cup as the difference between an Asian fit from an American brand 1.25 or even 1.5 inches.

For Cosmecanique inquiries, call Belo hotline at 8442939 or Belo Medical Plaza, 8177178, Belo Rustan's, 8158970.

Estée Lauder and Clarins are exclusively available at Rustan's.

cut & keep

black or white

Work with your skin tone to reveal the beautiful you.

All-natural

Just because neutral makeup is basic doesn't mean you have to look blank and boring

MORENA beauty

NEUTRAL OR NATURAL MAKEUP WILL always be with us. It will never go out of style, as it is the most fundamental element of any makeup wardrobe. It goes with anything and won't compete with or overpower your jewelry or outfit. You can never go wrong with neutrals.

But just because neutral is basic doesn't mean you have to look blank and boring. In fact, neutrals allow your face to be seen as it is. While not overly done, you can still look polished.

Neutrals mean no loud colors. It should blend easily with the color of your skin or your lips.

Eyes: I always use sand or chestnut colors. These are my staples. Other colors I like are toffee, tan, ivory, beige, camel, chocolate and sable. Try Bobbi Brown's wonderful array of neutral eye shadows.

Blush: Blush doesn't always have to be pink. Neutrals can work just as well. A neutral blush will blend just as well with your skin tone. This is not for sculpting your cheeks but more for giving you that healthy look. Try Shu Uemura in amber. It's very sheer and adapts to your skin tone.

Lips: What is your natural lip color? If it is on the pinkish side, then use colors that will complement your lips. You want people to think you are not wearing any lipstick. L'Oreal Glam Shine in Sweet Nude is the most natural-looking lipstick I've tried. It actually mimics my lip color.

Always remember to keep the coverage of your skin as transparent as possible. Do not put too much foundation. If you want to be more adventurous, just add a hint of bright color to your lips or eyes. Combine colors and blend, blend, blend.

MODEL DENISE MONTECILLO
MAKEUP BARBI CHAN (0917-8460738)

Porcelain beauty

Leave fine white skin alone

FILIPINA-MESTIZA beauty

ALMOST EVERYbody wants to be called "*tisay*," "*mestiza*" and "*kutis-porselana*." Who doesn't want to have that flawless, super-white skin?

We have this common misconception that if you are fair, then all colors will look good on you. I thought so, too, but unfortunately, I was wrong. I found out that it is even harder to put makeup on someone who is very fair. Why? Because of the lightness of the skin, everything is emphasized and exaggerated.

The pink makeup a *morena* uses may appear reddish on a *mestiza*. Imagine having two sets of papers. One white and one brown. Using the same colored crayon, say orange, the ones on the brown paper will appear yellowish while the white one will border on mustard orange.

Same with the skin. The secret to porcelain skin is to just let it be. Do not try to put bronzer or anything else to warm it up. It probably won't work. You will look much better off in your natural white skin.

Face: Avoid yellow-toned powder; instead find a white face powder or base and use it sparingly to cover the redness, dark circles and blemishes. A good product to try is Maybelline Dream Matte Mousse in Creamy Natural. It is perfect for that super-white skin.

Blush: Pale pinks or apricots are the best way to go. Avoid anything with a brown undertone. It will make your skin look dirty and muddy. Body Shop has a wide range of pink blushers.

Eyes: Cool tones work best on pale skin. Use white, shell, light gray, navy, green, pink or lilac. Avoid using black eyeliner. Instead use brown and apply it nearest to the lashline. Black is very harsh on a *mestiza*. Also avoid using reddish browns and deep purples. You wouldn't want to have that black-eye look.

Lips: Same with the eyes, avoid colors with brown tones. Stick to pink, mauve and rose. One product I discovered is the Max Factor in Rosewood. It really blends well with white skin.

A porcelain skin gives the illusion of cleanliness and purity. Please leave it that way. You are already lucky to have that God-given beautiful skin. Don't abuse it. Love it and take care of it.

MODEL CARAN LUNDY
TEXT AND MAKEUP BARBI CHAN (0917-8460738)

bench_
BODY

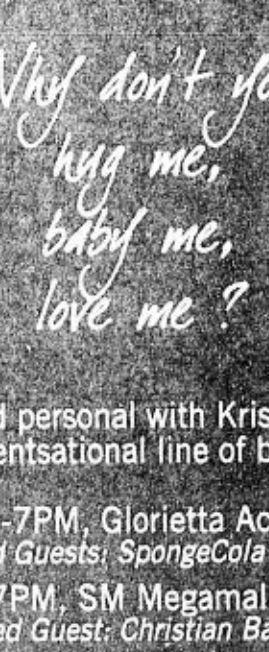
Why don't you
hug me,
baby me,
love me ?

Get up close and personal with Kris Aquino as she unveils her scentsational line of bench scents.

February 3, 5-7PM, Glorietta Activity Center
Featured Guests: SpongeCola & Hale

February 11, 5-7PM, SM Megamall Atrium Bldg.A
Featured Guest: Christian Bautista

Why don't you come?



Scents by Kris Aquino

www.benchbody.com

BEAUTY

Contributing editor Ria Francisco-Prieto

E-mail me at rbeauty@inquirer.com.ph

NATURALLY stunning with [illegible]yshadow

Tantal-eyes

Ria Francisco-Prieto

THE EYES ARE known as windows to the soul, and rightfully so. They reveal emotion and thought. People can tell if a person is happy or sad just by looking at the eyes.

During photo shoots, the eyes come into play. I sometimes ask the models to emote with smiling, intense or lustful eyes. As funny as it sounds, the models understand. And with the help of makeup, expressions and moods are intensified.

When I was younger, I got into the habit of rubbing my eyes. My mom would tell me to stop and warn me about wrinkles. Now I find myself looking closely at the mirror and regretting not listening to my mom.

I'm now on the hunt for the most effective under-eye cream, perfect cream concealer and the best eye-makeup remover.

I consider eye makeup the most exciting, and since I am now aware of how sensitive the under-eye area is (seven times more than the face), I am very careful when putting and removing makeup. Nowadays I pat, not rub.

In this shoot, the only makeup that was changed was the eye makeup. The first look is the natural pretty-girl look. In my opinion, every one should know how to put on eyeshadow without looking so made up. The eyeshadow is merely there to enhance your look.

Choose a neutral shade that will open up the lid. I prefer sheer as opposed to matte eyeshadow because it helps make the eyes look bright and awake. Mac has a lot of eyeshadow shades to choose from.

And if you want only one eyeshadow in your case, I highly recommend Mac. It may be a bit pricier than other brands, but the pigmentation is great and it lasts longer so you get your money's worth.

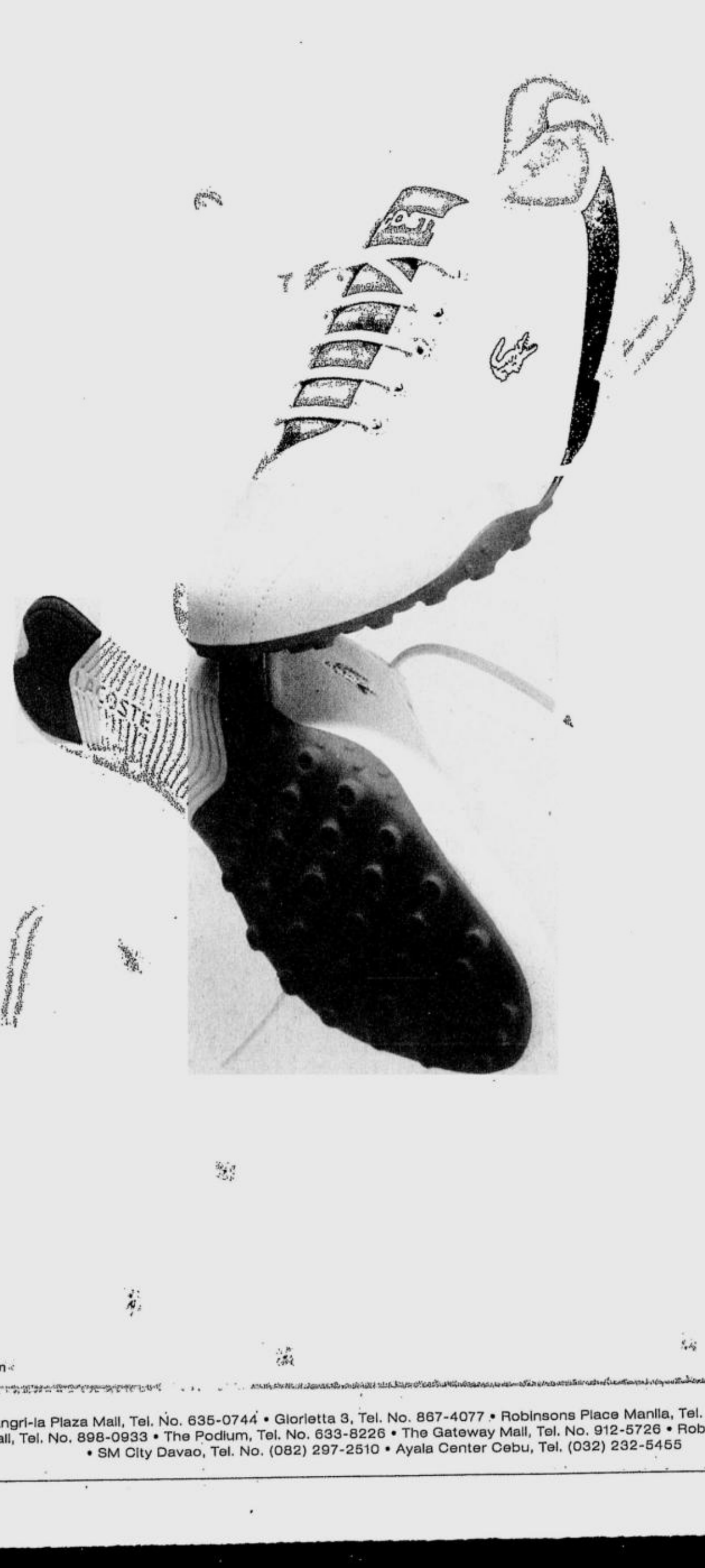
To polish your look, curl your lashes then apply mascara after. Try Maybelline's waterproof mascara: it's long-wearing and I love how the bristles work on my lashes.

The playful look is easy to do; it conveys fun. This look is more suited for the younger, more adventurous set. The most important aspect in this look is the color. It doesn't really take a lot of work or time. It may just mean using the "in" shade or using complementary colors on your lids.

For this story, the playful look just means the use of Shu Uemura eye-light pencil to line the lower lid. The eye-light pencil is a double-

TANTAL-EYES/ E6

LACOSTE



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PHILIPPINE INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS

Saturday, January 28, 2006
9 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 51 / P18

Knockout empanaditas served at Palace welcome

By Christine Avendaño

NOW COMES PACQUIAO Empanadita, the pastry of champions.

Palace executive chef Babes Austria created an *empanadita* (chicken-filled turnover) for Filipino

KNOCKOUT/ A8

Fugitive Oakwood Marine captain captured in Metro

By Luige A. del Puerto

AFTER 44 DAYS ON THE RUN, FUGITIVE Marine Capt. Nicanor Faeldon was captured by military agents last night somewhere in Metro Manila, a military spokesperson said.

"Yes, he was captured. He's all right, he did not resist arrest," said Col. Tristan Kison, Armed Forces spokesperson.

FUGITIVE/ A8

THE STREETS OF MANILA had never seen anything like it. They could hardly contain the wildly cheering crowds, the pride, adulation and affection of Filipinos who have been on a desperate search for heroes.

Multitudes cheer RP idol

VIEW FROM THE TOP of a multi-story building in Binondo with its balconies overflowing with more of Manny's minions.

REM ZAMORA

Five-hour parade stops work, traffic, even the rain

By Volt Contreras and Nikko Dizon

IN THE WORDS OF AN AVID "Pacman" fan, this is how Filipinos celebrate a "clean" victory.

With a crowd-drawing power exceeding that of any show biz celebrity or politician, boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao returned home yesterday to the cheer of tens of thousands in the streets of Manila and Quezon City, five days after crushing a Mexican boxing legend.

Mammoth crowds turned up for his five-hour victory parade, postponing lunch, stopping classes, or leaving work just for a glimpse of the 27-year-old fighter in a triumphal motorcade. Even if it rained on his parade, the sun was up in the hearts of the admiring multitudes.

Freda Pelisco, a 55-year-old street vendor from North Harbor, came as early as three hours before the parade started, holding up a montage of Pacquiao's front page photos which she had neatly pasted on folders.

"Everybody's happy because we all know he won fair and square. His victory was clean," she said in Filipino, in an apparent reference to the country's unresolved political issues.

Non-stop applause greeted Pacquiao

MULTITUDES/ A8

AND THE PUNCHLINE is ... President Arroyo wins Round 1 at the Palace where the Pacman and his family receive a knockout welcome reception. Flanking him from left are his father Rosalio, wife Jinky and mother Dionisia. LYN RILLON

Politicians ride on Pacquiao mania

By Christine O. Avendaño, Tarra V. Quismundo and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

FOR A MOMENT YESTERDAY, President Macapagal-Arroyo and Manny Pacquiao seemed to have reversed their roles, he sounding like a politician and she acting like a boxing sensation.

Indeed, Malacañang turned into a unique arena where the worlds of boxing and politics met.

The occasion was Ms Arroyo's welcome for the People's Champion on his return from the United States following his destruction of Mexican legend Erik Morales.

"*Sana lagi tayo magkakaisa, may laban o wala* (I wish that we will always be united whether I have a fight or not)," Pacquiao told cheering employees at Malacañang's Kalayaan Hall.

But the unity appeared not to include Makati City. While Mayor Jejomar Binay sulked, Manila Mayor Lito Atienza stuck

POLITICIANS/ A8

Marcos loot suspected used in polls

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE RECOVERED MARCOS MONEY should not have been used for the Department of Agriculture's farm input program because not one farmer organization has come forward to say it received fertilizer from the program, Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said yesterday.

Magsaysay said the P544 million taken from the P35 billion in the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos' Swiss bank deposits for the DA Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) hybrid rice program would have been better spent by the Department of Agrarian Reform, which was in dire need of funds for the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program.

"They shouldn't have touched that,"

MARCOS/ A6

Left-Right alliance vs GMA confirmed

By Norman Bordadora and Luige A. del Puerto

A MILITANT PARTY-LIST REPRESENTATIVE and a military-political analyst linked to coup attempts in the late 1980s confirmed yesterday the reported link-up between the Left and military rebels in a campaign to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Disgruntled officers of the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police are reaching out to people's organizations to get support for their grievances," Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño told reporters at the weekly Kapihan sa Newsdesk in Quezon City.

Casiño said that as in the ouster of Presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada in 1986 and 2001, the military's withdrawal of support would be "crucial" to the removal of Ms Arroyo from power.

"But their exact role in her ouster will be determined, to a large extent, by what the people's movement can accept," the lawmaker said.

At the same forum, retired Navy Commodore Rex Robles said it was "natural" for the Left and the Right to confer with each other, "especially because they were once together in detention."

He was referring to the time in the 1980s when coup plotters

LEFT-RIGHT/ A6

JDV heads 1st Asia-Pacific centrist party

LYN RILLON

GETTING TO KNOW YOU: Centrist Democrat Int'l launches its 1st organization for the Asia-Pacific region. From left, ex-PM of Spain and CDI president Jose Aznar, Ms Arroyo, Ramos, De Venecia and Thai deputy PM Suraldart.

By Michael Lim Ubac

TAKING WHAT THEY SAID WAS a first step toward political and economic integration in Asia, parliamentary leaders from Europe and Asia yesterday signed a declaration establishing a regional Asia-Pacific unit of the Centrist Democratic International and elected Speaker Jose de Venecia its first president.

The accord binds all member parties to end conflicts in the region through interfaith dialogues, peace talks, creation of an Asian bond to end poverty and harnessing the role of political parties as instruments of development.

De Venecia said the Manila declaration was the "first step" toward a European Union-type of

JDV HEADS/ A6

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SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 2006

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while eastern sections of Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to at times cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/01/28/06 SOURCE PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
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Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

RP to bring custody issue to Condi

A SENIOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL YESTERday said the custody issue over the four United States Marines in the Subic rape case could reach "higher" official levels in the US "very soon."

The highest US authority that would tackle the issue would be Secretary of State Condoleeza Rice.

But Rafael Seguis, the foreign undersecretary for special concerns, would not say what specific steps the Department of Foreign Affairs would be taking if and when it decides to bring the matter up with Rice.

Seguis said negotiations for the transfer of custody of the soldiers to the Philippines were going on through formal and informal talks even after Washington denied an earlier request.

Seguis, who stood in for Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo at a press conference yesterday, read from a statement of Romulo who said the custody issue was being threshed out "in the spirit of mutual interest and dialogue."

Among the formal channels being pursued was the issuance by the DFA of another diplomatic note a day after the Jan. 16 reply from the US declining the Philippine request for custody, Seguis said.

The Jan. 17 note verbal reiterated the Philippine view on "the extraordinary nature of the case" and thus, the request for custody.

Washington has yet to respond to the DFA's latest diplomatic note.

Seguis said Romulo's meeting in Washington two weeks ago with Eric John, a deputy assistant of the US State Department, was part of the "informal channels."

Washington has invoked the Visiting Forces Agreement in taking custody of the soldiers who are charged with raping a Filipino woman in November while on shore leave after taking part in joint military exercises at the former US naval base of Subic Bay.

The VFA, which was signed in 1998, gives protection to visiting US troops accused of crimes while taking part in joint war games.

Seguis said the US Embassy had been amply warned of the likely resentful anger among Filipinos over the Subic rape case and the continuing dispute over custody.

"We told them about the public outrage and the congressional outrage and they said they are aware of that," he said.

Seguis said the DFA negotiating team that included himself had met with a US Embassy panel led by charge d' affaires Paul Jones.

The highly charged rape case has drawn widespread interest in the country. On Thursday a small group of protesters burned an American flag outside the US Embassy to protest Washington's refusal to hand over the four.

The Senate and the House of Representatives have passed a concurrent resolution urging President Macapagal-Arroyo to terminate the VFA and renegotiate the terms of the accord.

Yesterday, the North Cotabato provincial government withdrew its invitation to a small group of US troops taking part in ongoing joint military exercises in southern Mindanao.

North Cotabato Gov. Emmanuel Piñol and his provincial board urged the President to "immediately suspend" the month-long exercises that began in the province in mid-January unless the four accused were placed in Philippine custody.

In his statement, Romulo said government officials "understand and respect the intensity of the sentiments of some members of Philippine society on this issue."

He said the DFA "respects" the views of Congress but rejected the legislators' demand to abrogate the VFA.

Nikko Dizon, Ansbert Joaquin, PDI Central Luzon Desk and AFP

NEWSBRIEFS

SC junks Garcia's petition

THE SUPREME COURT YESTERDAY JUNKED RETIRED MAJ. GEN. CARLOS Garcia's petition questioning the jurisdiction of the Sandiganbayan over the forfeiture cases filed against him for allegedly amassing more than P140 million in ill-gotten wealth. The ruling, in effect, paved the way for the anti-graft court to start hearings on the forfeiture case filed by the Office of the Ombudsman against Garcia last year. In a three-page ruling, the SC said the Sandiganbayan did not commit grave abuse of discretion when it denied Garcia's appeal to dismiss the case. *Armand N. Nocum*

TRO stops Plinky custody case hearing

BACOLOD CITY – THE COURT OF APPEALS IN CEBU CITY HAS ISSUED A 60-day temporary restraining order stopping Bago Regional Trial Court Judge Henry Trocino from hearing a custody case filed by the former live-in partner of fitness expert Marie Roxanne "Plinky" Recto against the latter. The CA, in a ruling Thursday, also prevented Recto's former boyfriend from going within 200 meters of her, according to lawyer Virlato Dupaya, Recto's legal counsel.

Recto's former lover, a Negrense businessman, however just shrugged off the CA ruling. "I don't care even if it were a thousand miles. What is important is that the CA allowed my son to continue to stay with me in his ancestral home in Barangay Ubay, Pontevedra, which he owns, so I can raise him to be a farmer and a lawyer. That's all that matters to me," the former lover said Thursday. *Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Atienza cleared of graft

THE SUPREME COURT HAS CLEARED MANILA CITY MAYOR LITO Atienza of graft charges arising from a P20,000 "financial assistance" he gave to a barangay captain and his *tanods* five years ago. In a decision by Associate Justice Leonardo Quisumbing, the high court affirmed a 2002 ruling of the Office of the Ombudsman stating that there was no ground for the filing of a graft case against Atienza. Complainant Armando Tetangco, a Manila city hall employee, claimed Atienza later refunded the amount from the coffers of the city government, a move he said was not justified as a lawful expense under the anti-graft and corrupt practices act or Article 220 of the Revised Penal Code. "We find that the petition lacks merit. No grave abuse of discretion is attributable to the Ombudsman. *Armand N. Nocum*

Sandigan junks graft case vs Puno

THE SANDIGANBAYAN FOURTH DIVISION HAS JUNKED WITH FINALITY a graft case filed against Antipolo City Rep. Ronaldo Puno in connection with the P250 million Motorola deal which he rescinded in 1998. In a 38-page resolution dated Jan. 20, the anti-graft court denied the prosecution's April 22, 2005 motion for reconsideration for lack of basis. State prosecutors accused Puno of causing injury to the government, the Philippine National Police, Motorola and its local distributor when, as interior undersecretary, he recalled his approval of Phase 4 and 5 of the PNP Multi-Trunk Radio System (MRTS) project. The prosecutors claimed that Motorola incurred lost sales amounting to $3.57 million while its local partner, Thesys Inc. was denied P6 million in commissions. *Nelson F. Flores*

Group laments UP refusal to host prayer rally

By Christian V. Esguerra

LONG CONSIDERED A BASTION of freedom of expression, the University of the Philippines has barred the holding of a prayer rally after indicating earlier it had no problem having the affair there, one of the rally's organizers said yesterday.

Fr. Robert Reyes, spokesperson of the Silent Majority Prayer Movement, said the interfaith rally would be held on Monday at the Quezon Memorial Circle instead of the UP Sunken Garden as earlier planned in view of the state university's decision to turn down the group's request.

Reyes, a UP chaplain for seven years until 2002, said the decision was conveyed to the organizers hours after the movement was officially launched last Thursday.

But last Tuesday, he said, UP president Emerlinda Roman told him that the request would be endorsed to chancellor Sergio Cao Jr. and that it was as good as approved. Quoting Roman, he said only a "conflict in schedule" would keep the ecumenical prayer from the venue.

"Is UP Diliman contaminated with Malacañang paranoia?" he asked in an interview with the INQUIRER. "Deep and genuine prayer is needed to heal all kinds of maladies, from corruption to paranoia."

Contacted for comment yesterday, Roman denied she had assured Reyes that the request was "as good as approved."

"No, that's not true; I did not say that," Roman told the INQUIRER. "I told him the use of the Sunken Garden is a decision that has to be made by the chancellor. It is the chancellor that makes the decision. I don't make the decision."

The movement, which is led by Lingayen-Dagupan Archbishop Oscar Cruz, said in a statement that it organized the prayer rally to encourage Filipinos to "pray for our deliverance from the social evils we suffer, the division we experience, the misery we live in."

The group said it was time to implore the heavens for a genuine resolution to the crisis triggered by President Macapagal-Arroyo's alleged manipulation of the 2004 election results.

Reyes said the UP administration turned down the movement's request, citing an obscure, 12-year-old administrative order issued by former chancellor Roger Posadas.

The rule, in essence, prescribes that nowhere in UP can a religious activity be held outside of the two churches on campus—the Protestant Church of the Risen Lord and the Catholic Parish of the Holy Sacrifice—Reyes said.

"In my seven years as UP chaplain, we never had problems like this," the priest lamented. *With a report from DJ Yap*

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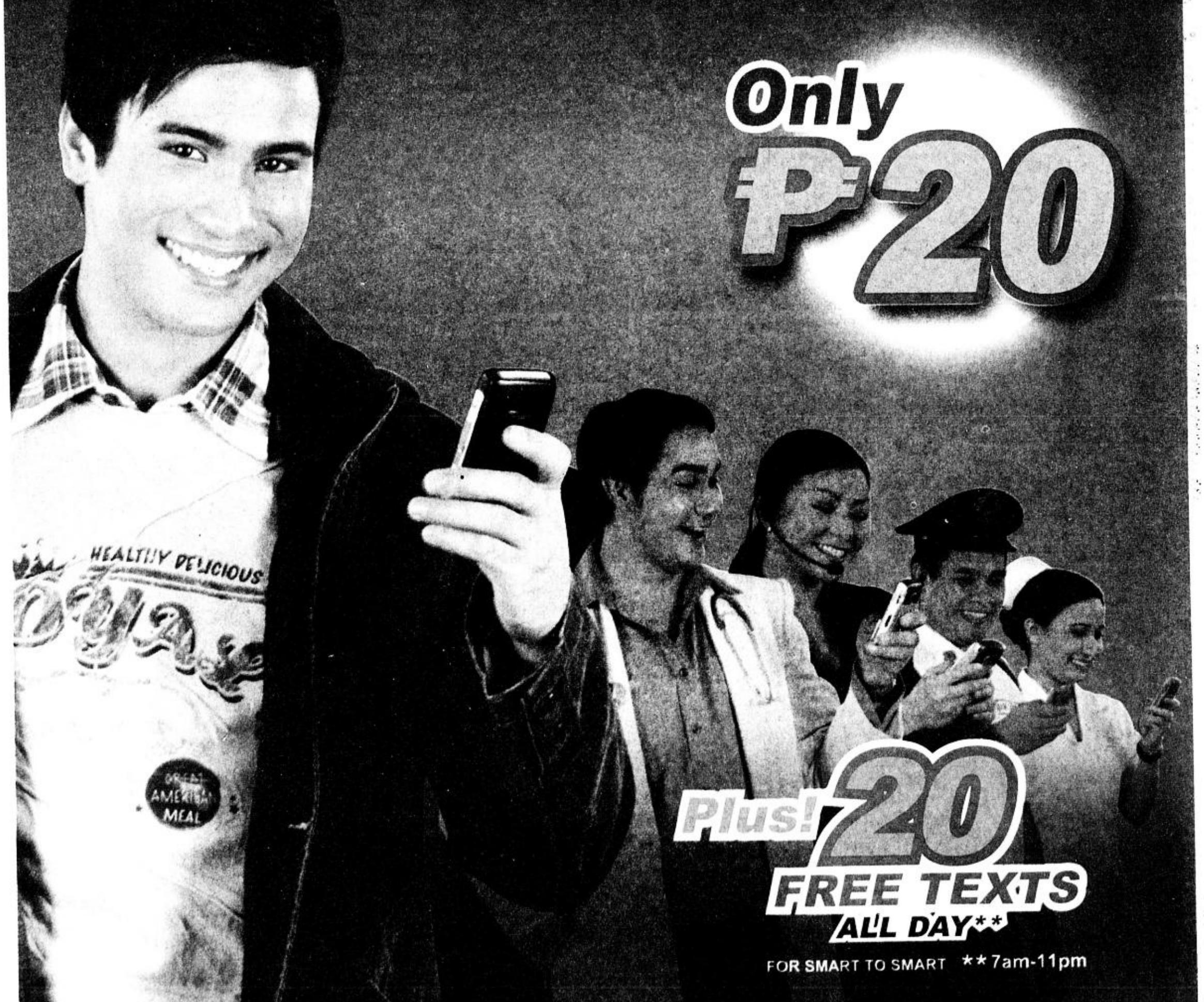

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Holganza groomed as new PSG chief

THE ARMED FORCES BOARD OF Generals [BOG] has recommended Army Col. Carlos Holganza, a former military aide of President Macapagal-Arroyo, as the next chief of the Presidential Security Group.

Holganza, who is currently a senior military assistant to Defense Secretary Avelino Cruz Jr., was reportedly endorsed by outgoing PSG chief Brig. Gen. Leo Bangit.

Holganza served as senior military adviser and aide to Ms Arroyo when she was vice president.

He belongs to the Philippine Military Academy Class 1978 which adopted Ms Arroyo as an honorary member.

After Arroyo assumed office with the ouster of then President Joseph Estrada in January 2001, Holganza served as special assistant to the President.

He later served as deputy executive director of the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission. *Dona Z. Pazzibugan*

REM ZAMORA

HONORING DOY
The city of Manila honors the memory of the late Vice President Salvador Laurel with the unveiling yesterday of his statue in front of the Laurel Foundation building on Pedro Gil corner Roxas Boulevard in Manila. Celia Diaz Laurel and son Cocoy (sixth and fifth from left) lead the family in song. The former assemblyman and senator, who led the opposition during the darkest days of martial law, died on Jan. 27, 2004 while undergoing treatment for cancer in the US.

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Maligalig named new PMA chief

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan

BRIG. GEN. LEOPOLDO MALIGALIG HAS been named the next superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy [PMA].

The 53-year-old Maligalig, a member of the PMA Class 1976, will replace Lt. Gen. Cristolito Balaoing, who is set to retire on Jan. 30.

AFP Chief of Staff Gen. Generoso Senga yesterday announced the appointment of Maligalig, whom he expects to start implementing the academy's reform program dubbed the "PMA Road Map 2015."

"He still has more than two years before retirement and therefore [could] ensure the implementation of this plan in its very crucial initial three-year stage," said Senga.

There have been calls for reforms in the academy due to reports of hazing and financial irregularities.

Prior to his appointment as PMA superintendent, Maligalig served as commandant of the academy's cadet corps.

He had previously served as spokesman for both the Armed Forces and the Philippine Army.

"I think the reason I was chosen is [for] continuity," Maligalig said when reached for comment.

He will be promoted to the two-star rank of major general, according to Senga.

He is a brother of retired Navy Capt. Prospero Maligalig, the spokesperson of the Rebolusyonaryong Alyansang Makabansa.

The Philippine Military Academy was formally created on Dec. 21, 1935 by Commonwealth Act No. 1 (National Defense Act) which authorized it to bestow a Bachelor of Science degree on graduates of its four-year course. With Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

NGO raises alarm as deadline nears for landfill closure

By Blanche Rivera and David Hayes

IMAGINE 28 OLYMPIC-SIZED pools of water oozing out of the garbage collected from the entire Metro Manila.

That is the volume of liquid waste produced by the Rodriguez landfill in Rizal province which generates 63 million liters of leachate every year from Metro Manila's garbage, the Ecological Waste Coalition (Ecowaste) environmental group said yesterday.

ADB study

Citing a study by the Asian Development Bank, the Ecowaste Coalition said the waste from the Rodriguez landfill eventually flows out into the Marikina River, with some of the leachate remaining untreated.

"Sometimes, the effluent comes out unsafe because the waste water treatment facility of the landfill cannot treat heavy metals. It's made for leachate from organic wastes," Ecowaste president Eileen Sison told a forum yesterday.

Leachate is the solution that is formed when water passes through wastes collected in a landfill site. Depending on the character of the wastes being treated, the leachate may contain high levels of pollutants and hazardous substances that can enter surface and ground water, or the soil.

Unlike open garbage dumps, landfills are huge carefully engineered facilities into which wastes are put. A secure landfill would be lined with clay and plastic to prevent the possibility of wastes escaping to groundwater. It would have a wastewater treatment facility for the leachate, a soil cover and a gas pipes to collect the methane emissions.

5,000 tons of garbage

Most landfills like that of Rodriguez, which receives about 5,000 tons of garbage from Metro Manila each day, are capable of treating only leachate from organic wastes.

But Sison said the Rodriguez landfill has become a dumping ground for mixed garbage, causing toxic wastes from batteries and other hazardous materials to contaminate the leachate.

Ecowaste, an alliance of individuals, community and civil society organizations, has raised the alarm over the Rodriguez landfill as the Feb. 16 deadline nears for all open dumpsites to be closed or converted to sanitary landfills.

It said local governments, including those of Metro Manila, still have a long way to go toward organizing themselves to segregate garbage so that only organic wastes end up in the landfills.

Apart from the Rodriguez landfill which is the only one in Metro Manila, the country has only four other landfills that can treat leachate from organic wastes—Puerto Princesa in Palawan, Bais in Negros Occidental, Clark in Pampanga and San Fernando in La Union.

996 dumps

Ecowaste has called on the government to close 996 waste dumpsites all over the country to comply with RA 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, which has set Feb. 16 as the deadline for all dumps to be closed or converted to sanitary landfills.

Data from the National Solid Waste Commission show that 734 open dumps and 262 controlled dumps (those that are provided with soil cover) continue to operate throughout the country despite the deadline for open dumps to be converted into controlled dumps having lapsed two years ago.

2006 deadline

RA 9003 requires open dump sites to be converted into controlled dump sites by 2003 and for the closure of these converted dump sites by February 2006.

"I don't see the government or DENR being able to compel the local governments to follow the law because the NSWMC is only riding on the budget of the Environmental Management Bureau, and there's not much it can do," Sison said.

RA 9003 also requires local governments to build materials recovery facilities for residual non-biodegradable garbage for each barangay or cluster of barangays, but only 1,140 of the country's 42,000 barangays have these facilities.

The NSWMC said it has served notice that it would sue 35 local governments for their failure to segregate, build materials recovery facilities and operate controlled dumpsites or sanitary landfills as mandated by RA 9003.

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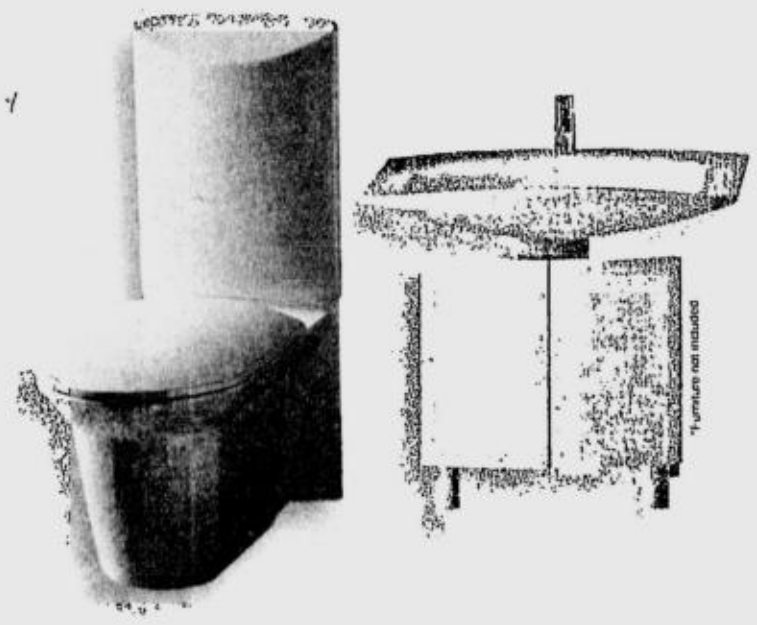

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YAKUZA LINKS

2 Pinoys arrested in Japan; bombs, guns, ammo seized

TOKYO — POLICE ON FRIDAY ARRESTED three men and raided the offices of a crime syndicate on suspicion of smuggling explosives, guns and ammunition into Japan, a news report said.

The men, one Japanese and two Filipinos, are suspected of bringing plastic explosives, 10 automatic revolvers and about 200 rounds of live ammunition to Japan on a Philippines-registered ship earlier this month, Kyodo News agency reported.

The weapons were seized at Yokohama port last week. Investigators believe the men have links to the Inagawa-kai, a major crime syndicate based outside Tokyo, according to the report.

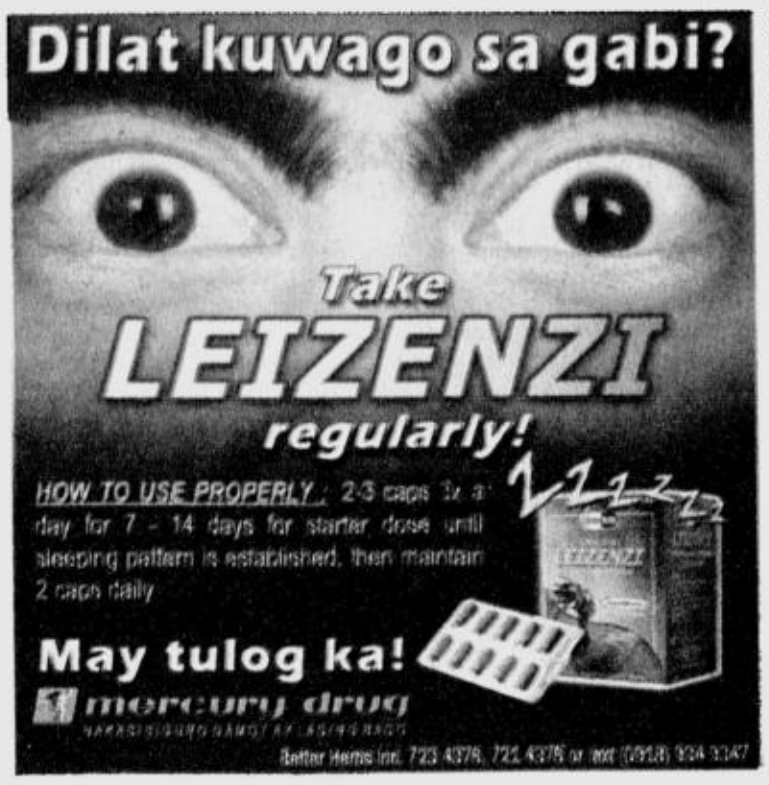
The Inagawa-kai may be preparing for a power struggle with rival gangs, public broadcaster NHK quoted police as saying Friday. An official at the National Police Agency said he could not comment on the reports.

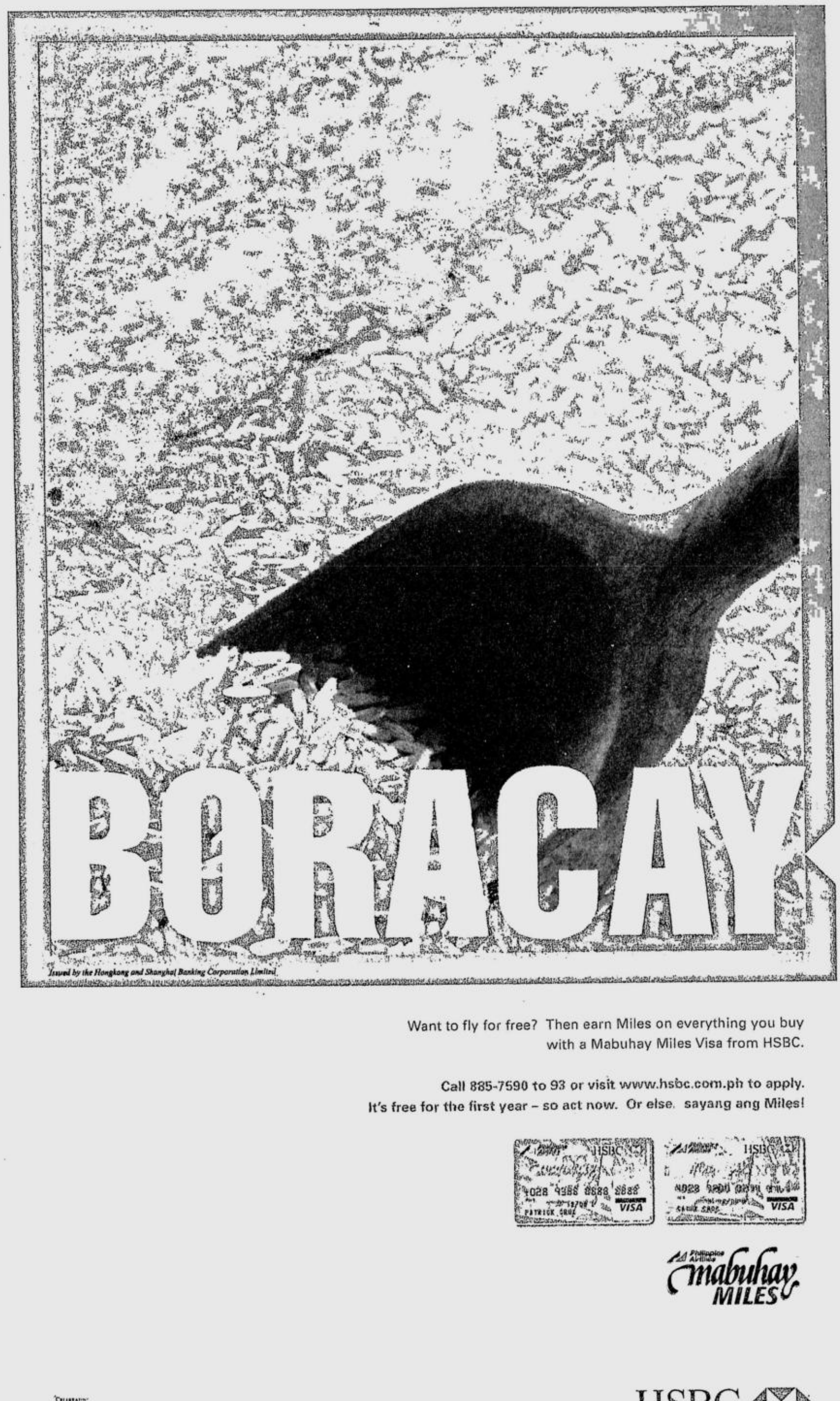
Japanese gangsters – commonly called the yakuza – are among the world's wealthiest, bringing in billions of dollars a year from extortion, gambling, the sex industry, guns, drugs, and real estate and construction kickbacks schemes.

Gangster numbers have been growing despite decades of police crackdowns, with 87,000 gangsters in the country at the end of last year, according to NPA figures.

Of these, over 70 percent are thought to have links with Japan's three largest syndicates – Yamaguchi-gumi, Sumiyoshi-kai and Inagawa-kai – which have jostled for control of Japan's underworld.

In 2003, two gunmen opened fire in a bar north of Tokyo in an especially violent dispute involving the Sumiyoshi and Inagawa groups, killing a mobster and three bystanders. *AP*





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Peace within grasp, GMA tells 'centrist democrats'

DESPITE COUP RUMORS AND the lingering political crisis, President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday claimed before world leaders gathered at the Manila Hotel for an interfaith dialogue that peace was "within our grasp."

In a veiled warning to coup plotters, Ms Arroyo said the Philippines would continue to be governed by the politics espoused by "centrist democrats."

She said the country was "a centrist nation with a centrist government" that could "defeat poverty and secure mankind against the twin scourges of terrorism and extremism."

Speaker Jose de Venecia told the INQUIRER that the presence in Manila of European and Asian leaders of parliaments and leading members of the world's great religions signified the continued support of the international community to the Arroyo administration. *(See story on Page A1)*

"Despite coup threats, the international community is here," De Venecia said. "In a sense, we are proud of our national party, Lakas-CMD, perhaps one of the very few parties in the world that houses Christians and Muslims under one roof in a common political house."

As far as former President Fidel Ramos is concerned, any coup attempt against the Arroyo administration is bound to fail if it lacks the spark that will trigger nationwide outrage against her.

Speaking with reporters on the sidelines of the same assembly, Ramos said the coup plotters, including the fugitive Magdalo mutineers, were doing the country a disservice by espousing violence and scaring away potential foreign and even domestic investment.

He expressed the belief that the reasons for discontent among those wanting to remove the President were not enough to convince the people to put their lives on the line.

"Why should we risk another bloody struggle among soldiers and policemen when the causes on which they're basing their plans, rumors, and declarations are not nationwide in nature?" *Reports from Michael Lim Ubac, Philip C. Tubeza and Cynthia D. Balana*

Left-Right alliance vs GMA confirmed

From page A1

shared detention facilities with suspected members of the Communist Party.

Some of these personalities include former Sen. Gregorio Honasan who, as an Army colonel, led coup attempts against the Aquino administration, and Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo, then a member of the National Democratic Front panel negotiating peace with the government.

"The government should look into the reasons why the Left and Right are coming together. If you remove the ideology, you will see that the agenda is the same—the search for a good life," Robles said.

Meeting of minds

Casiño said that in the end, "a meeting of minds between the military and the civilian component of the oust-Arroyo movement" would be necessary.

"Will it be an Edsa I or Edsa II model? Or will there be a hybrid? This is something that cannot be predetermined and will be defined by political developments in the next few months," he said.

Casiño added that a successful coordination between the Left and the Right in toppling the Arroyo administration could even result in hastening the peace process between the government and the NDF.

"If [Ms Arroyo) gets booted out, it could create conditions that will make it easier to resolve the armed conflict," he said. "In the field, this can even lead to a situation wherein rebels and soldiers agree, through low-level and informal agreements, not to engage each other militarily."

Administration officials had earlier said the escaped officers of the mutinous Magdalo group were now colluding with the communist New People's Army.

A government intelligence report has also alleged that Honasan was in touch with Navy Lt. Antonio Trillanes IV, a Magdalo leader still behind bars, and 1st Lt. Lawrence San Juan, a few days before he and three other Magdalo members escaped from detention.

"Definitely, we're looking into [Honasan's supposed links with rebel officers], but I don't want to implicate [him] this early without real proof," National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said yesterday.

He added: "We have to check that information as soon as possible because we are not discounting his (Honasan's) influence in the military."

Recruitment at PNP

At Camp Crame, two PNP officers disclosed that parties seeking Ms Arroyo's ouster approached police commanders as early as the middle of 2005, offering in at least one case a large amount of money in exchange for switching loyalties.

The targets for recruitment supposedly included officers of the PNP-Special Action Force by virtue of its big number of men trained for combat and the wealth of information they keep.

But the recruiters were "rebuffed," according to a junior officer.

Civilians with ties to politicians also tried to recruit intelligence officers, said another source.

One officer was offered "a very big amount of cash," but he "felt insulted" and turned it down, the source said.

Both sources, who work in sensitive PNP units, spoke on condition of anonymity because they did not want themselves, their assets and sources exposed.

One said the PNP brass was aware of the recruitment efforts, although official denials had been issued.

A lot of cash

According to the sources, those seeking to destabilize the administration appeared to have a lot of cash and were targeting policemen with gripes, including the inability, for one reason or another, to get desired posts in the PNP.

"What I can say is that they (coup plotters) have the intent but lack the means at this time," the junior officer told the INQUIRER. *With a report from Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.*

JDV heads ...

From page A1

integration of Asian nations into a "continent without dividing lines."

"I welcome you all as we take this first step together on our journey toward an Asian People's Party, creating the beginnings of what could be the first regional transnational political party in Asia," De Venecia said in his welcome address.

The accord also regards "the use of terror for political and military means as a true crime against humanity," thus committing CDI members to combating transnational crimes such as money laundering, drug trafficking and human trafficking.

The signing was witnessed by President Macapagal-Arroyo and former President Fidel Ramos at the Manila Hotel. Both addressed CDI officials who converged in Manila for a three-day executive committee meeting, including an interfaith dialogue.

110 political parties

Previously called Christian Democratic International, CDI is composed of 110 political parties from around the world. In Europe, the Centrist Democrats have formed the European People's Party, currently the majority party in the European Parliament. It is pushing hard to spread its centrist philosophy to the East.

The Philippines' ruling Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrats and nine other political parties in Asia are leading the expansion.

De Venecia, who initiated the formation of CDI Asia-Pacific, was elected its first president by 10 Asian political parties and a stellar cast of parliamentary leaders from Europe, birthplace of the centrist ideology. Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, who was represented by a deputy, was elected chair.

Apart from former Spanish Premier Jose Ma. Aznar, the CDI's international president, other foreign dignitaries attending the meeting were two other former prime ministers, Wilfried Martens of Belgium and Kjell Magne Bondevik of Norway, and Ferdinando Casini, Speaker of the Italian Chamber of Deputies and president of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Antidote to terrorism

Speaking at the interfaith dialogue afterward, Ms Arroyo, chair of the Lakas-CMD, said faith was the "greatest antidote to terrorism" and credited it for progress in her administration's peace talks with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front which will resume later this month in Malaysia.

"I am happy to report to you today ... that in the Philippines the vestiges of conflict in Mindanao are finally fading away," she said. She said that through the peace talks the government had demonstrated "a willingness to accept the sincerity of those who differ with us in faith."

Ms Arroyo said that religious faith should be a "source of individual strength and a humanitizing element that binds together all the peoples of the world" but she noted that "too often" faith has become a "source of despair and destruction among peoples and nations."

"I believe what we're doing here today is every bit as important as building up might, military forces to fight terrorism and injustice here at home or across the globe," she added.

India's experience

In his speech, De Venecia cited India's experience in interfaith dialogue.

"I look at India as a model and a great example: for its political leader, Sonia Gandhi, is a Roman Catholic. Their Speaker of parliament is a leading Communist. And the country is 82 percent or 83 percent Hindu. An incredible pluralist society, the largest democracy in the world!" he said.

Asia "is home not only to the fastest-growing economies but also to the rising powers," De Venecia said, pointing to the rise of Japan, China and South Korea and economic gains made by other countries in the region. "All these are combining to shift the weight of global power from West to East," he added.

"For us—as for the Christian Democratic founders of one Europe—the vision of a continent without dividing lines has become a possible dream. We believe the integration of Asia will keep in balance the tripod of global interdependence, whose two other legs are Europe and America," he said.

Grand union

Even now, he said that heads of governments were negotiating an "East Asian economic grouping" that would incorporate the 10 Southeast Asian states already gathered in Asean with the Northeast Asian states of China, Japan and South Korea.

The initial phase of this "grand union"—a free-trade area combining Asean with China—began last year, and should be completed by 2010, he said.

Elected vice presidents of CDI Asia-Pacific were Thai Deputy Prime Minister Surakiart of Thai Rak Thai; Deputy Prime Minister Sok An of the Cambodia People's Party; Sen. Mushahid Hussain Sayed, secretary general of the Pakistan Muslim League; Theo Sambuaga, deputy chair of Indonesia's Golkar party, and Prince Ranariddh, president of the Cambodian parliament and Funcinpec party.

Marcos loot suspected used in polls

From page A1

said Magsaysay, chair of the Senate committee on agriculture and food, which is investigating the GMA hybrid program.

"The law says that the funds should go to agrarian reform, and that the DAR should implement it. The DAR is in need of funds for the acquisition of land for agrarian reform beneficiaries," he said.

Magsaysay said the P544 million—which was released weeks before the May 2004 elections—became part of the total P2.806 billion "fertilizer fund" of the DA.

Critics contend that the fund never reached its farmer-beneficiaries and was used to induce public officials to support President Macapagal-Arroyo's candidacy and ensure her victory in areas where the money was distributed.

But interviewed yesterday over dzXL radio, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said that while he did not know the details on how the Marcos fund was used, he was certain that the DA had used the money in a proper way.

"I don't think it's right to say immediately that the money was used for the election," he said, adding it was "obvious" that critics were using the issue "in slinging mud at the administration and President Arroyo."

Ermita appealed for people to be reasonable and not rush to make accusations.

Asked if the Palace was ready to reply to the charge, Ermita said he expected the DA to address the issue.

He lamented that "all things" were "being given political color," so that "instead of progressing, we tend to be immersed in such talk."

No 'fertilizer assistance'

Of the P544 million released, P394 million went to the hybrid rice program at the Philippine Rice Research Institute, P50 million for farm-to-market roads, and P100 million for "farm inputs and implements."

But Magsaysay said his committee had held five public hearings since last year, and not a single farmer organization had acknowledged receipt of "fertilizer assistance."

Instead, according to a preliminary report of Magsaysay's committee that was released last month, representatives of farmer organizations who attended the hearings wondered why the funds were released from February to May—the harvest season or *gapasan* months—when fertilizers "are of no use, because the planting time is November."

The report said that until the DA submitted "substantial and convincing evidence to the contrary," the committee would continue to believe that the money was "all utilized to assure the victory of the administration in the electoral polls of 2004."

Gross disproportion

The report cited a document prepared by GMA Rice Program top officer Frisco Malabanan, which said that for the year 2003, the amount of fertilizer fund needed nationwide was only P28 million.

"If the same document is to be adopted and updated for 2004, adjustments can be made, but it will not be as costly as P2.806 billion, or a hundred times the needed amount," it said.

"This is a classic case of gross disproportion between what is needed by farmers as scientifically studied and the wanton wasteful actual release of fund to support the cause," it added.

The report also said that 18 months after the funds were released, "no delivery of fertilizer has been verified and validated, and no substantial liquidation and auditing have been completed."

"While indeed the auditing mandate is being performed by the [Commission on Audit], the DA has not been cooperating and, in fact, maintains an indifferent stance," it said.

It pointed out that "judging from the inaction, ... it may be concluded that there is no real intention to liquidate the fund because it may be that the project is a giant ghost project involving big-time crooks in the government, or may have been padded because of excessive pricing."

Thorough auditing

In a statement, Akbayan Rep. Etta Rosales called for a "thorough auditing" by the COA of "the ill-gotten Marcos wealth that was transferred between April and July, 1998 from the Swiss banks to the Philippine National Bank to the tune of $540 million+."

She said Congress should also do its part in auditing the funds "without let-up."

"Should this stolen money that should go to the Marcos victims and the farmers be missing, then the full force of the law must be used on the culpable, whatever her/his position in public office," Rosales said. *With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and Alcuin Papa*

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Corrections

IN THE JAN. 26 issue, a front-page story—"People's champion arrives Friday; first stop, Palace"—spelled the name of Cabinet officer for presidential events as Conrado Limcaoco in one paragraph and Limcauco in eight paragraphs. The correct spelling is Limcaoco.

* * *

IN THE SAME issue, a story on Page A15—"Fire hits Las Piñas warehouse"—misstated that the fire was put out using Aqua Use Fill Forming Foaming. The correct term is aqueous film-forming foam (AFFF).

* * *

IN THE JAN. 24 issue, the editorial on Page A10—"Unequal relationship"—misstated the name of the foreign secretary. He is Alberto—not Roberto—Romulo.

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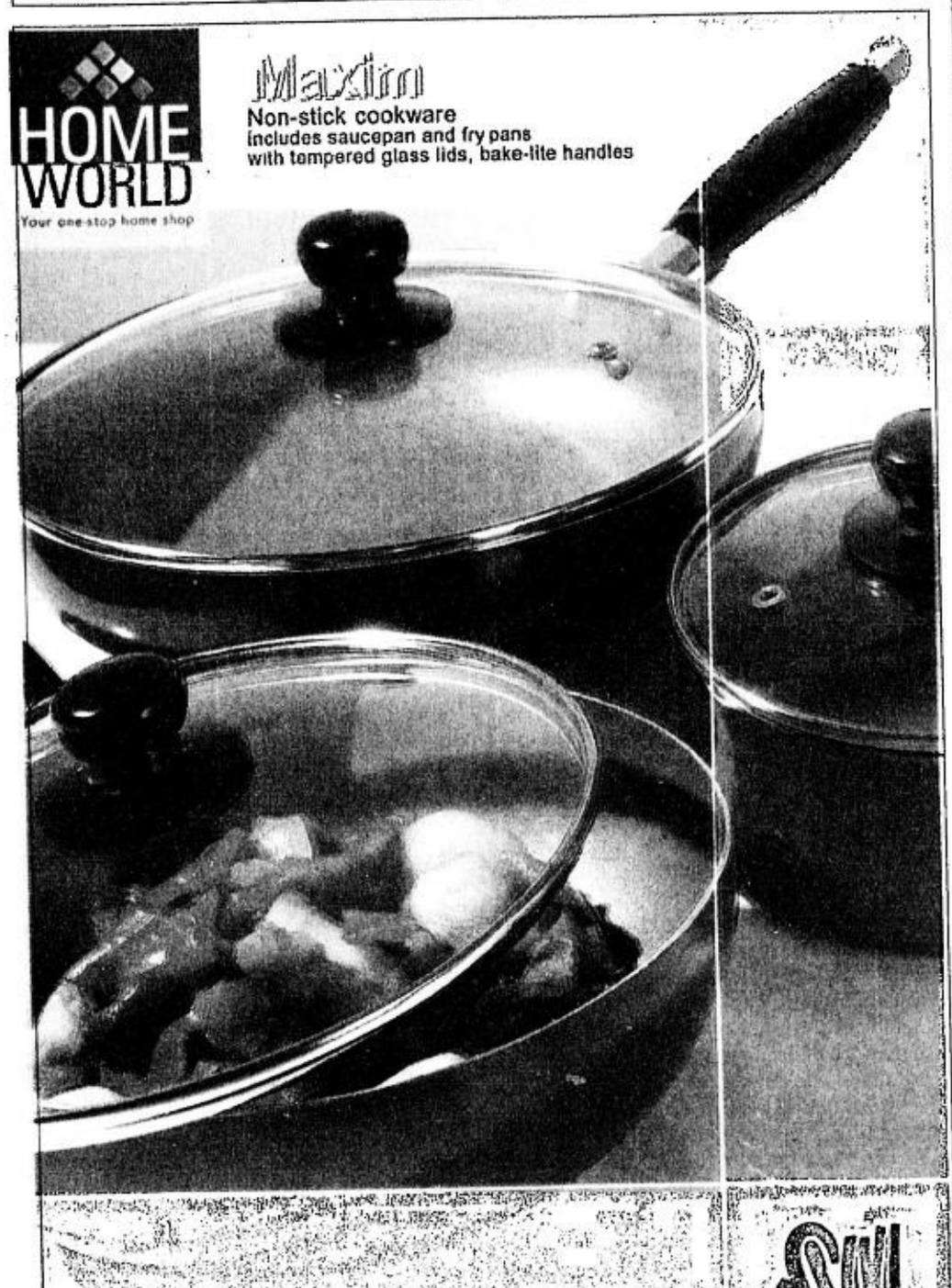

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Knockout empanaditas served at Palace ...

From page A1

boxing champion Manny Pacquiao and was presented to him yesterday during his courtesy call in Malacañang.

According to Austria, it was President Macapagal-Arroyo who asked her to come up with a special treat for Pacquiao, who came home a people's hero after his big win against Mexico's Erik Morales over the weekend.

After two days of conceptualizing, molding and baking, Austria said she and her 15-member team came up with a plated treat for Pacquiao, which she aptly named "Pacquiao Empanadita."

Indeed, both the President and Pacquiao gushed when it was served for merienda.

Elegantly presented on a big round plate, two empanaditas, baked in the shape of boxing gloves, held up the words "Round 10," which were made of pâte brisée (pie dough) and sprinkled with poppy seeds. Round 10 was when Pacquiao brought down Morales.

PASTRY CON TKO: Palace chef Babes Austria (behind Ms Arroyo) concocted with "love and passion" empanaditas shaped like boxing gloves with No. 10 on it. LYN RILLON

Cooked with love

Austria said the empanaditas had a delicious filling of chicken, carrots and wild mushrooms cooked in white wine.

"They were made with love, passion and *pagmamahal sa kanya* (love for Pacquiao)," she said.

Austria and her team baked enough empanaditas to feed 150 hungry people. Pacquiao's relatives, who came with him to his Palace visit, even brought home some of the pastries, she said.

The pastries were also served to members of the Cabinet and the national security team who had a meeting at the Palace yesterday.

Asked how much the concoction cost, Austria said the plated treat was only P20, noting how Ms Arroyo had always espoused the Palace to have a prudent kitchen.

She added that if the treat were served in hotels, it would cost a hefty P350 a plate—surely an amount not many people would want to champion.

Bishops get hate mail, too

By Christian V. Esguerra

THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE OF the Philippines (CBCP) has received a steady stream of angry messages a few days before it's set to draft a pastoral statement on the national situation.

The messages were mostly in the form of letters, text messages and e-mails, the INQUIRER learned.

A two-page letter titled "Take Your Guidance from the People, Not the Other Way Around" was sent to the CBCP Secretariat by the so-called "Mandaluyong Group."

The note, dated Jan. 24, was sarcastic, making it clear that it wasn't expecting anything of value to come out of the CBCP's pastoral statement.

"Perhaps, unlike any other letter that you may have received, this one is not a plea," it began. "We shall not beseech you to issue a statement affirming the deep conviction of majority of the Filipino people that the fake President Macapagal-Arroyo should stop the charade and give up power that is not hers."

The senders attacked the bishops, who had released a controversial statement in July 2005, which called on the President to examine her conscience, but refused to demand her resignation.

Critics said this statement actually helped Ms Arroyo keep her post.

"It is you who taught us to read the signs of the times," the letter said. "We have done so and concluded that this is not a time to overlook Ms Arroyo's crimes and simply 'move on'—an ignominious piece of advice from you that WE REJECT."

Quite a number of similarly angry letters had reached the CBCP office, according to two Church officials who spoke on condition of anonymity, for fear of being castigated by the hierarchy.

"They usually land in the trash bin. They don't reach the bishops anymore," one of them told the INQUIRER.

Archbishop Oscar Cruz yesterday admitted that the CBCP had been getting its share of criticisms in the form of hate mail, especially after the July pastoral statement was made public.

"It appears that the people were discontented with the July statement," he said. "They were expecting more and the CBCP apparently didn't satisfy their expectations."

A common text message attacking the bishops last year ran like this: "God descended on the apostles, Pagcor descended on the bishops."

Fugitive Oakwood Marine ...

From page A1

Faeldon, one of the core leaders of the Magdalo group of Army mutineers charged with involvement in the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, was captured at 8:30 last night, the military said.

It was not immediately clear how and specifically where Faeldon was arrested and if there were others who were taken with him. But a military operative involved in the manhunt said Faeldon was captured somewhere in the Malabon area.

Malabon was one of three areas that military pursuers had been staking out, according to the operative who asked not to be identified.

Faeldon was one of five Oakwood mutineers to have bolted from detention at the Fort Bonifacio Army camp in recent weeks.

"We can't divulge other details as yet. Follow up operations are ongoing," Kison said.

Another high-ranking military official confirmed the arrest of Faeldon but asked not to speak on record, saying the Armed Forces of the Philippines information office had the details.

Faeldon escaped from his guards on Dec. 14 after a postponed hearing at the old Makati City Justice Hall. The four other fugitive mutineers escaped from Fort Bonifacio on Jan. 17.

They are among dozens of soldiers charged with coup d'etat for the July 27, 2003 takeover of the Oakwood Premier luxury apartments in Makati.

After escaping, Faeldon established a website—www.pilipino.org.ph—where he called for civil disobedience to press the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

The website carried the image of a Philippine flag at half-staff.

While on the run, Faeldon had claimed in his website that he had been able to freely enter two military camps and a police camp.

He claimed to have the support of fellow soldiers and said that "no one can stop me from entering these camps unless the corrupt generals man the entrances."

"I ask you to join me in bringing down Arroyo through civil disobedience," he said, adding that he and others would push for nonviolent acts that people could do to hasten Arroyo's downfall. *With a report from Fe Zamora*

Multitudes cheer RP idol

From page A1

throughout a route of 34 streets starting from City Hall, to the Binondo Chinatown, to the slums of Tondo, to the stretches of España and Quezon Avenue, and other parts of Quezon City, including the ABS-CBN and GMA Network compounds.

Greeted at every turn by "Pacquiao" chants from men, shrieks from teenage girls, and applause coming from office windows and balconies, the warrior waved back at admirers from a float specially designed for his homecoming.

The float—a vast improvement from his past motorcades which merely used an unadorned mini-truck or SUV—was a hero's shrine on wheels, with Philippine flags and sun rays forming the backdrop, above which hovered a symbolic dove of peace.

The vehicle's front featured giant boxing gloves made of papier maché.

The champ shared the float with another winning Filipino boxer from the Jan. 22 fight night in Las Vegas: Jimrex Jaca.

Hitching a ride

But both ring masters were nearly outmaneuvered for exposure by a group of local politicians who literally hitched on their triumphant ride.

The motorcade, which started at around 10:30 a.m., fittingly started near the monument of plebeian revolutionary leader Andres Bonifacio, as though signaling that the whole affair would be a treat for the Pinoy masses who have embraced Pacquiao as their modern-day hero.

Not since FPJ

And the *masa* did pour out in full force for the former bakery helper from General Santos City who went on to become one of the most colorful rags-to-riches stories in Philippine lore.

The parade, which went on without pause despite brief rainshowers, induced the most creative expressions of idol-worship not seen since the 2004 presidential campaign of the late movie icon Fernando Poe Jr.

Teenage boys released pet pigeons on cue. A dragon dance and later an *ati-atihan* troupe greeted Pacquiao's convoy through Chinatown.

Fireworks erupted and confetti rained down every few blocks.

A demigod

Everyone with a cell phone-camera simply had to take snapshots of the passing sports celebrity. Even along the slums of North Harbor, some residents had a good view from their rooftops, surprisingly toting expensive digital cameras and handycams.

The legions had found a demigod.

And they both praised and teased him, as shown by some of their placards.

Some conveyed pure admiration by calling Manny "The National Fist (Pambansang Kamao)" and "The Thorn of Mexico."

The INQUIRER saw at least two placards that screamed: "Pacquiao for President."

'Bear me a child'

But then Pinoy humor expectedly went to work. A man bore a cardboard sign saying "Manny Pa-Kiss (Give me kiss)." Others pleaded: "Manny, isang suntok naman d'yan (How about a punch?)" and "Manny, anakan mo ako (Let me bear your child)."

Street peddlers tried to cash in and offered Pacquiao pins and shirts.

But perhaps the most telling sign of Pacquiao's stardom was the emergence of his very own impersonator, who lingered at the Manila City Hall grounds at the start of the parade, hoping for the press to take notice.

His stage name: "Manny Paksiw (after the name of vinegar-based dish)."

Uniting a nation

Cheers of "Manny! Manny!" broke the early morning stillness as soon as fans saw him emerge from the Ninoy Aquino International Airport Centennial Terminal 2.

The cheers sounded like the voice of a proud nation welcoming home a son who had single-handedly brought together a people deeply divided over politics.

More than a hundred fans waited patiently outside the airport.

Pacquiao's gym

"I'm not sleepy," 5-year-old Jonalyn Ryan Fernando said in Filipino. "I want to see my idol."

Fernando's father, Almirante, said Jonalyn told him he wanted to see Pacquiao in person.

Thus, father and son joined their neighbors in Barangay 463 in Sampaloc, Manila, which formed a delegation to meet Pacquiao.

The gym where Pacquiao had trained for more than 10 years is located on Paquita Street in Barangay 463, according to its chair, Bomber Paneloza.

Which explains the barangay's deep affinity for the man who knocked out Mexican boxing hero Erik Morales.

Pacquiao's friends from the Guardian "Tiger" Contingent Inc. also came.

"We love him. He's a true Filipino. His punches are for the masses!" Ernie Evangelio, 28, said.

Family reunion

Pacquiao was eager to see his two sons, craning his neck to look for them in the sea of welcomers.

As he made his way down the stairs, he finally saw 5-year-old Emmanuel Jr. and 4-year-old Michael Stephen.

Pacquiao's mother, Dionisia, also came.

Passengers waiting for their luggage, customs and immigration officers, and practically the entire Terminal 2 stopped to welcome Pacquiao with cheers.

Uproar over Atienza

The Manila mayor's son, former Councilor Kim Atienza, caused an uproar among media people who had followed the rules set by the airport authority for the coverage.

The media had been told to stay behind the railings and advised that Pacquiao would not make any arrival statement.

However, the younger Atienza, who hosts a morning show on ABS-CBN, stood right beside Pacquiao during the photo op at the stairs to get an exclusive interview.

He stopped the interview after an airport official told him about the howls from protesting media people.

Presidential son Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel Arroyo also arrived with his family on a different PAL flight about an hour before Pacquiao faced the media but was largely ignored by journalists.

National Capital Region Police Office Director Napoleon Catchuela collapsed at the airport due to fatigue shortly after Pacquiao's plane touched down.

At the Manila City Hall, red, white and blue confetti rained down as Pacquiao and his entourage arrived to the cheers of hundreds of people, who later turned into a mob.

"I hope Filipinos can unite," Pacquiao told reporters. "I offer my victory to the people."

Asked if he was willing to help unite Filipinos, particularly military in the face of talk of unrest in the ranks, Pacquiao said he would help to the best of his ability.

Pacquiao refused to comment when asked if he was willing to help the government in its drive for constitutional reform.

"I don't know anything about that. No politics for now, let's focus on sports for now," he told reporters. *With a report from Tina Santos*

The other champ: Outside, looking in

By Tina G. Santos

HE WAS HIMSELF A CHAMPION BUT they wouldn't let him into the room where Manny Pacquiao was.

Invited by some officials to join yesterday's press conference for Pacquiao at the Manila City Hall, Jimrex Jaca reportedly received shabby treatment from people in charge of security—or so said several witnesses, including employees.

They told the INQUIRER that Jaca was denied entry into Bulwagan Villegas, where Pacquiao was meeting reporters.

Jaca is the Philippine lightweight champion. He also did the country proud when he knocked out Mexican Geronimo Hernandez in the undercard of the Pacquiao-Erik Morales rematch.

Pacquiao holds no crown, except the World Boxing Council international super-featherweight title—the title given to the best outside of the top 10 contenders circle.

'They ignored him'

"The security officers apparently did not recognize him, but they still ignored him even as we were shouting to them who he was," said one witness.

But the 22-year-old southpaw did not want to make a big deal of the incident, saying he chose to wait outside the hall because it was so crowded.

"Lumabas lang talaga ako kasi madami masyadong tao (I really stepped out because there were too many people)," Jaca said, trying to downplay the incident.

"This is really for him, he is famous ... It is enough that I am part of this (welcome)," said Jaca, seated in one of the welcome floats for Pacquiao.

Politicians ride on Pacquiao ...

From page A1

to the people's idol like a Siamese twin.

"Friday should have belonged to Manny Pacquiao, and no one else. But Malacañang turned his homecoming into another big photo op for President Macapagal-Arroyo," Binay said.

Politicians seemed almost everywhere, as though relishing to be in Pacquiao's shadow. Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson came on the plane with him.

First Gentleman Mike Arroyo, who watched the fight in Las Vegas, had been roundly criticized for his presence on the ring as though basking in Pacquiao's victory.

In a victory motorcade later, Pacquiao was sandwiched by Atienza (in his trademark floral shirt) and Manila Rep. Miles Roces. Behind them was a bevy of councilors and other officials.

Politicians, including Atienza and Vice President Noli de Castro, were also around at the Palace when Pacquiao called on Ms Arroyo.

As flash bulbs popped, Ms Arroyo joined Pacquiao in raising a clenched fist, looking like she was ready for a fight.

Earlier, Ms Arroyo and Pacquiao chatted before national television at the Palace music room.

"Manny, congratulations! Today's Pacquiao Day!" she said, welcoming the boxer and his family, which included his wife Jinky and his parents.

Ms Arroyo also gave Pacquiao a special treat: patte brissee, aptly called "Pacquiao empanadita," made especially for him by Palace executive chef Babes Austria and her 15-member team.

Both Ms Arroyo and Pacquiao sampled the treat, after which the boxer had endless photo sessions and autograph-signing sprees with Palace employees.

While the city of Manila gave Pacquiao a red carpet welcome, the country's financial center could only gripe at not being able to see even a glimmer of Pacquiao's lethal fists.

Staunch oppositionist Makati Mayor Jejomar Binay blamed Malacañang for his city's exclusion from Pacquiao's victory motorcade which took the country's most famous and beloved fighter around the known administration-friendly cities of Manila and Quezon City.

'Hijacked by Malacañang'

"Manny Pacquiao deserves a welcome fit for a world-class and honorable Filipino, and it would not be complete without a parade along Ayala Avenue. He was, however, hijacked by Malacañang," said Binay, who has been at the forefront of the campaign for the ouster of Ms Arroyo on allegations that she cheated in the 2004 election—an issue that remains unresolved to this day.

"Makati's private sector, the biggest names in Philippine business, was ready at a moment's notice to participate in this momentous event," Binay said in a statement.

The Makati City Hall had expected organizers of Pacquiao's parade to include in its route even just the stretch of Ayala Avenue in the Makati Central Business District, where many other Filipinos who had brought home glory from abroad had been honored with a victory parade.

"We don't want to appear like we're begging for him to be brought here. We all know that it has been customary for all Filipinos who have brought honor to the country to be brought to Makati," said Makati Information and Community Relations Department chief Joey Salgado.

Ayala's buildings showered confetti on Pacquiao in a parade in November 2003, when he came home victorious after defeating Mexico's Marco Antonio Barrera.

One big photo-op

Last October, Makati's workers, commuters and passersby lined sidewalks of main avenues to catch a glimpse of Filipina beauty Precious Lara Quigaman after she was crowned Miss International in Japan.

In December, traffic once again stopped around the busy business district when the city hosted a parade for Filipino athletes who emerged as overall champions in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

"What we saw was another example of shameless credit-grabbing. Pacquiao won cleanly and convincingly. And the irony is that he met [Ms Arroyo], who is accused of cheating in the last presidential elections," the mayor said.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita defended Ms Arroyo's welcome for Pacquiao.

"I think as the leader of this country, she should be at the forefront of welcoming our champion," Ermita said.

Ms Arroyo spent less than an hour with Pacquiao throughout the day. At times, she looked subdued during Pacquiao's call on her at Malacañang.

The two met up again during an evening tribute for the boxer and others who had brought the country honor—and this time the President appeared to make up for the lost time, singing not once but twice.

The first was a duet rendition with Pacquiao of the boxer's debut song, "Para Sa Yo Ang Laban Na 'To." Then Ms Arroyo joined other athletes and singer Sarah Geronimo in the rip-off song "Pinoy Ako."

The others honored in the ceremony, dubbed "A Tribute to Filipino Champions," were fast-rising boxer Jimrex Jaca and athletes who won in the recent Southeast Asian Games and in the Paralympics.

Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman, as well as Police Senior Insp. Dominador Arevalo and Grade 6 pupil Cristina "Tinay" Bugayong, who both returned cash and checks they had accidentally found, were also given recognition.

Traffic was a standstill as both lanes of Roxas Boulevard were closed to give way to the street party.

Like a Siamese twin

Atienza also received brickbats for seemingly hogging the spotlight during the Pacquiao homecoming.

Atienza hung on to the boxer from the time he set foot in the Philippines at dawn, to his visit at Malacañang, to the motorcade around the city and all the way to the stage in the evening tribute for Filipino heroes in Manila.

Garbed in a loud, red Hawaiian shirt, Atienza appeared to be always beside the prizefighter to the point of, according to witnesses, practically outstaging the President.

Atienza didn't even give way to Quezon City Mayor Sonny Belmonte when the motorcade reached Quezon City.

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

World urges Hamas to renounce violence

PARIS—WESTERN POWERS warned on Thursday that they would not deal with a Palestinian government led by Hamas—regarded as terrorists by the EU and the United States—unless it renounces violence and recognizes Israel's right to exist.

"The United States does not support political parties that want to destroy our ally Israel," US President George W. Bush said after Hamas won a landslide election victory in Palestinian parliamentary elections. "People must renounce that part of their platform."

That Hamas had won so overwhelmingly and fairly—former US President Jimmy Carter said the elections in the West Bank and Gaza Strip were "completely honest"—only compounded the dilemma for foreign governments.

They both hailed the smooth vote, and expressed dismay at Hamas' taking nearly two-thirds of the 132 parliament seats.

The militant group has carried out dozens of suicide bombings, seeks Israel's destruction and has said that it opposes peace talks and will not disarm.

"We must respect the election result, although it was not the outcome we had wished," Denmark's Prime Minister Anders Fogh Rasmussen said.

In France, Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin said renouncing violence, accepting progress toward peace, and recognizing Israel and existing peace accords were "indispensable" conditions for working with "a Palestinian government of any kind."

Hamas' unexpected victory threw the future of the peace process between Palestinians and Israel into turmoil, and raised immediate questions about how the United States and other countries might still be able to influence the process—especially if they refused to deal with the militants.

"Hamas won," said Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Wiesel. "Hamas is surely not a democratic movement. Its ideas are surely not humanistic ideas.

"What do we do now?"

There were calls from the Arab and Islamic worlds for Western governments to accept the result.

"One has to adjust to ground realities," said Pakistan President Gen. Pervez Musharraf.

Top officials from the so-called Quartet of Mideast peace negotiators—the US, the EU, the United Nations and Russia—spoke Thursday evening by telephone and planned to meet Monday in London, UN associate spokesperson Marie Okabe said at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, who took part in Thursday's phone conversation, was to be at the meeting Monday, along with US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov and EU Foreign Policy chief Javier Solana, Okabe said.

"You cannot have one foot in politics and another in terror," Rice said, adding that for the United States, Hamas was still a terrorist organization.

Concern crossed political divides, with traditional supporters of the Palestinian cause—such as Italy's center-left opposition—among those expressing worry. The Italian government said Hamas' victory could indefinitely postpone any chance of Israeli-Palestinian peace and make the creation of a Palestinian state more difficult.

"It is a very, very, very bad result," Premier Silvio Berlusconi said. AP

A HAMAS supporter climbs the front entrance of the Palestinian Legislative Council building in the West Bank city of Ramallah, Jan. 26, to hang the movement's flag. AFP

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Hamas has clear domestic agenda, murky on Israel

By Amy Teibel

JERUSALEM—ISLAMIC HAMAS MILITANTS who swept the Palestinian parliament in a stunning first run have a clear domestic agenda: purging government corruption and restoring order to lawless streets.

But they are much murkier when it comes to explaining how they'll deal with a Jewish state whose existence they reject—but cannot ignore.

Hamas' dramatic upset was as much a measure of two decades of dogged grass-roots work as it was a vote of no-confidence in the corruption-tainted, ineffectual Fatah Party, which had dominated Palestinian political life for 40 years.

An outgrowth of the militant Egyptian Muslim Brotherhood, the highly disciplined Hamas scored points with the largely impoverished Palestinian public by offering a wide-ranging network of health, education and welfare services.

Many experts believe Hamas' political and charity wings have been always intertwined with its military wing.

But the group's alternative to the Fatah government's ramshackle social safety net allowed it to make inroads even among Palestinians tired of the cycle of violence in which Hamas, with its suicide bombings and rocket attacks, played such a major a role.

Now, having captured 76 of parliament's 132 seats in Wednesday's election, the politically inexperienced Hamas finds itself catapulted into steering the Palestinians through one of the world's most intractable conflicts.

"What their real agenda is I can't say," said Palestinian lawmaker Hanan Ashrawi, a former Fatah legislator reelected to parliament on a third party list. "I don't think they have it fully formulated.

"We know what they say, they want all of Palestine and say that negotiations did not work," Ashrawi said. "They talk about wanting reform. That doesn't mean they will do it."

Talal Okal, a commentator for the Palestinian Al-Ayyam newspaper, said Hamas hadn't wanted to take control of the government, preferring to let Fatah take charge.

Now that it has been forced to take the reins, Okal thinks Hamas will find itself forced to deal with Israel, if only on day-to-day issues in which Israel is involved, such as electricity, water, imports and exports.

"Hamas can't deal with people's daily life without coordinating and dealing with Israel," Oka said.

One way to do that would be by inviting Fatah to join its government and let Fatah deal with Israel—an idea Fatah rejected on Thursday. Another would be to abandon its violent ideology.

Since the election, Hamas leaders have signaled things could go either way.

One leader, Mushir al-Masri, said recognizing Israel and negotiating with it are "not on our agenda." But Mahmoud Zahar, the group's top leader in Gaza, said he was ready to maintain the ceasefire if Israel does likewise. AP

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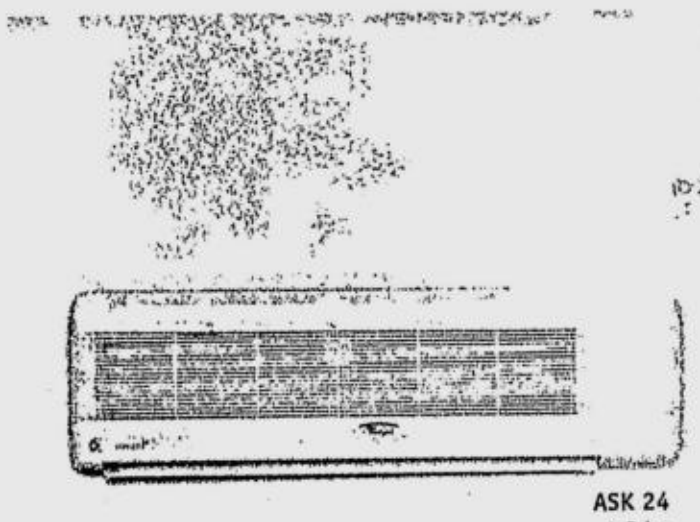

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Massive tunnel dug by drug traffickers discovered beneath Mexico-US border

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA—US AND MEXICAN AUthorities have discovered a massive, one-kilometer long tunnel dug under their border by drug traffickers, one of the largest ever found, they said Thursday.

The sophisticated tunnel, lined with concrete and equipped with ventilation and lights, is burrowed a staggering 26 meters below the earth's surface, according to the Mexican prosecutor general's office.

US authorities did not immediately provide the dimensions of the tunnel discovered Wednesday, but confirmed it was "massive," much larger than the more than 15 others detected in the region since the Sept. 11, 2001 terror attacks on US soil.

"The investigation continues into what is believed to be one of the largest and most sophisticated cross-border tunnels ever discovered along the California-Mexico border," the US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) said in a statement.

The tunnel, discovered by US Border Patrol agents who tipped off Mexican authorities, begins beneath a warehouse in the Mexican border town of Tijuana and stretches to Otay, near the US border hub of San Diego.

"Mexican law enforcement officers ran through the tunnel into the United States and ultimately popped up into a warehouse in the United States," said Michael Unzueta, special agent in charge for ICE investigations in San Diego.

Beneath the warehouse, the police discovered a 1.8 by 3.6 meter shaft equipped with electricity and a ventilation system.

They also seized more than two tons of marijuana, stacked in about 60 bales, in the tunnel, officials said.

The length and well-constructed structure of the tunnel, which was 1.5 meters wide, make it unusual.

Officials stressed that the tunnel could also have been used by people smugglers bringing illegal immigrants into the United States and even by weapons traffickers.

"Whether they are designed to smuggle drugs, people, weapons or other contraband, these tunnels pose a threat to our nation's security," said Unzueta.

"ICE is committed to working with our law enforcement partners to dismantle the tunnels and the criminal organizations behind them," he said.

The US-Mexican border—that stretches from San Diego on the West coast to the Gulf of Mexico, across California, Arizona, New Mexico and Texas—is notoriously porous and the focus of US security concerns and a backlash by US conservatives who say the US government is not doing enough to bar illegals. *AFP*

Israel tried to kill Bin Laden in '96, says newspaper

JERUSALEM—Israel's Mossad spy service and a foreign counterpart enlisted a confidante of Osama bin Laden to kill the al-Qaida leader in 1996 but the plan fell apart over a political dispute, a newspaper said on Thursday.

Mossad picked up Bin Laden's trail while helping US and Egyptian agents probe an attempt by Islamist militants on the life of Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak as he visited Ethiopia, Israeli daily Yedioth Aharonoth said citing security sources.

According to the report, Mossad recruited a woman close to Bin Laden with the help of the intelligence service in her country. Neither the woman's name nor nationality were given.

Yedioth said the woman was meant to kill Bin Laden, but the mission was aborted as a result of a breakdown of ties between Israel and her country linked to Israeli-Palestinian tensions.

Contacted by Reuters, Danny Yatom, who was head of Mossad at the time, declined comment on the report.

US officials believe Bin Laden is now hiding in the region of the rugged border demarcating Afghanistan and Pakistan. Reuters

Pollution cutting China's sunny days, researcher finds

By Michael Casey

BANGKOK, THAILAND—CHINA'S SKIES have darkened over the past 50 years, possibly due to haze resulting from a nine-fold increase in fossil fuel emissions, according to researchers from the US Department of Energy.

The researchers, writing in this month's edition of Geophysical Research Letters, found that the amount of solar radiation measured at more than 500 stations nationwide fell from 1954 to 2001 despite a decrease in cloud cover.

"Normally, more frequent cloud-free days should be sunnier and brighter but this doesn't happen in our study," said Yun Qian of the energy department's Pacific Northwest National Laboratory in Washington state.

"The pollution (that) resulted from human activity may have created a haze which absorbs and deflects the sun's rays," Qian, the study's lead author, said in an e-mail interview Friday.

Air pollution is widespread in China. Antiquated factories billow smoke, many residents still use coal to heat their centuries-old houses, and a sharp increase in car ownership has bathed the motorways in exhaust fumes.

The amount of sunlight hitting the ground has fallen by 3.1 watts per square meter in each of the last five decades amid a nine-fold increase in fossil fuel emissions, the study said.

Herbert G. Fabian, who studies urban pollution and transportation issues for the Asian Development Bank, said the study's conclusion "makes sense" but that more information is needed.

"There really is (an) air pollution problem and a haze problem in China because (of) dust storms and pollution," he said. "But we can't say conclusively that the reduction in sunlight is due to haze."

The study also said that haze appears to have masked the impact of global warming by reflecting sunlight back into space and cooling the Earth's surface.

"The haze may have masked the effects of global warming across large parts of China, particularly in the central and eastern regions, where daily high temperatures have actually been decreasing," Qian said. "This may seem like good news, but any success China has in curbing emissions will accelerate the effects of global warming in those areas when the cooling mask is lifted." *AP*

Government Warning
is dangerous t

STILL SEEKING ANSWERS
Members of the Madres de Plaza de Mayo association listen to a speech during the 25th March of the Resistance, a 24-hour march marking the organization's last of such demonstrations. The Madres de Plaza de Mayo has held 24-hour protests each year since 1981 in front of the presidential Pink House, to demand answers on the fate of the 30,000 people who disappeared during Argentina's 1976-1983 dictatorship. AFP

Agent Orange makers ordered to pay veterans

SEOUL—A SOUTH KOREAN COURT ON THURSday ordered two US manufacturers of Agent Orange to pay $65 million in compensation in a landmark victory for Vietnam War veterans exposed to the toxic defoliant.

Dow Chemical and Monsanto were ordered to compensate around 6,800 South Korean veterans in what officials said was the first victory for veterans taking on US chemical companies in the courts.

"The plaintiffs will get compensation varying from six million won ($6,200) to 46 million won each," Seoul High Court senior judge Choi Byung-deok told AFP. Total compensation would reach 63 billion won ($65 million), the judge added.

Three separate damage suits were filed against the two US firms on behalf of some 20,615 South Korean war veterans and their families. Two were upheld while one case was dismissed.

South Korea sent some 300,000 troops to fight alongside the United States and southern Vietnamese forces during the 1965-1973 war.

The court ruled that the firms produced stronger dioxins than necessary due to design flaws.

"The defoliants manufactured by the accused contained dioxins in excess of the permitted standard due to product design flaws," the ruling said.

It said the dioxins triggered 11 medical conditions, including lymphoma, lung cancer, diabetes, prostate cancer and various skin diseases.

The court said there "is an epidemiological correlation between the defoliant and the diseases" that the war veterans were suffering.

In the case thrown out by the court, plaintiffs failed to establish a link between medical problems and the toxins, the ruling said.

Last year, a US court dismissed a lawsuit filed on behalf of millions of Vietnamese which accused US chemical firms including Monsanto and Dow of crimes against humanity.

An appeal has been lodged against the dismissal.

Vietnam War veterans from Australia and New Zealand have also campaigned for compensation for illnesses related to exposure to Agent Orange. The Canberra government has recognized the Australian claims while New Zealand veterans filed a lawsuit for compensation last year.

The South Korean veterans filed their case with a lower court in 1999. The case was thrown out in 2001 and the plaintiffs appealed to the High Court the same year.

The chemical companies, represented by a local law firm, offered to settle out of court two years ago but negotiations broke down.

In the United States, chemical companies paid $180 million into a fund for US veterans in 1984, in an out of court settlement with no admission of liability.

Since then US veterans have been seeking additional compensation to that settlement, and in June 2003 the Supreme Court ruled they could continue to pursue claims against the manufacturers despite the earlier settlement.

Between 1961 and 1971, the US Army dropped more than 100,000 tons of toxic chemicals on Vietnam, according to the Vietnam Association for Victims of Agent Orange. The group says between 2.1 and 4.8 million Vietnamese were exposed.

Named after the colored stripes on its containers, Agent Orange was used to destroy the vegetation used effectively by Vietnamese communist forces for cover and food. *AFP*

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DONATELLO PIECE
A terracotta relief of the Madonna and Child by Italian Renaissance master Donatello, seen in this undated photograph, was sold for $4,440,000 by Sotheby's auction house in New York Jan. 26. REUTERS

WORLDBRIEFS

New bird flu vaccine

WASHINGTON—A new bird flu vaccine made using cleaner technology took just a month to make and completely protected chickens from the deadly H5N1 virus, US researchers reported on Thursday. The genetically engineered vaccine appears to fulfill the promise of modern influenza vaccine technology being pushed by public health experts who want to improve the slow, old-fashioned methods now used to fight the flu. Current influenza vaccines for both chickens and humans take months to make and are grown in chicken eggs. Production is uncertain and the vaccines do not provide perfect protection. *Reuters*

WMD task force

WASHINGTON—The Pentagon's latest strategy review proposes a new military unit that would prevent the transfer of weapons of mass destruction from states such as North Korea and Iran to terrorist groups, The Washington Times reported on Friday. The WMD task force would be comprised of several hundred troops, including special operations forces and intelligence personnel, the Times said. *Reuters*

Enron's chiefs to face jury

HOUSTON—Four years after the dramatic demise of Enron Corp., former chiefs Ken Lay and Jeffrey Skilling will enter a federal courtroom in Houston on Monday to face charges linking them to one of the biggest business disasters in US history. The case against Lay, 63, and Skilling, 52, hinges on whether the two executives, who once enthralled Wall Street by creating a company that became the nation's seventh largest, were aware of Enron's financial shell game that pumped up earnings while hiding billions of dollars in debt. The Enron Task Force, a special unit created by the US Department of Justice to investigate wrongdoing at the Houston-based company, will parade several former Enron executives who have struck plea agreements in front of jurors to try to tie Lay and Skilling to criminal acts of fraud and conspiracy. Enron had been widely hailed as an energy market innovator before it imploded in 2001 after its illicit use of off-balance sheet partnerships to hide billions of dollars in debt and pump up earnings was unveiled. *Reuters*

Mexico serial killers

MEXICO CITY—One is a female wrestler who allegedly earned the trust of elderly women, then strangled them. The other is a former soldier accused of luring gay men from bars and killing them. Mexico City police had two suspected serial killers in custody Thursday, saying they have solved the capital's infamous "Little Old Lady Killer" case and have broken another string of murders. Authorities said Juana Barraza, 48, was caught fleeing a house Wednesday where an 82-year-old woman had been strangled with a stethoscope. Prosecutors said they have evidence implicating Barraza as the notorious "Mataviejitas," or "Little Old Lady Killer," suspected in the slayings of at least 10 elderly women in the past two years. Another suspect, Raul Osiel Marroquin, 29, was arrested Monday in the killings of four homosexual men in the capital, police said. *AP*

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'No-El' again

EDITORIAL

WHAT CONSTITUTES A CONSENSUS? PRESS SECretary Ignacio Bunye told reporters, after the Council of State meeting last Tuesday, that "the ratio of those who talked was 4:1" in favor of going ahead with the elections scheduled in May 2007. Former President Fidel Ramos put the ratio at a much higher 99:1, saying, "I think all of us, say, 99 percent, agreed to push ahead with the 2007 elections." And the general public thought that this wrote finis to the ill-advised proposal to cancel the elections put forward by the Arroyo-appointed Consultative Commission on Charter Change.

But Bunye, Ramos and almost everybody else thought wrong. On Wednesday, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said the President's spokesman and the former president were just voicing their thoughts on the matter. "There was no consensus, because (the issue) was not thrown to the floor," Ermita said. To prove the point, Malacañang released the communiqué issued after the meeting, which didn't mention the holding of elections as among the points that were agreed upon.

So now the prospect of holding office for three more years without going through the rigors, expense and suspense of an election is there for local officials and congressmen to dream about and drive them to work for Charter change.

While Malacañang has consistently refused to state clearly its position on the issue, despite the demands, deadlines and threats of Ramos, Ermita's clarification has let the cat out of the bag. But was there ever any doubt who was most interested in selling the idea?

President Macapagal-Arroyo is obviously banking on the cancellation of the elections as one way of stopping calls for her to cut her term so that the nation can put the question of the legitimacy of her presidency behind. It will also consolidate political support for her administration, as grateful local officials and lawmakers, her political base, will be its immediate beneficiaries.

But it is not the prerogative of the President, much less of the Consultative Commission, to extend the terms of public officials to buy their support for constitutional change. (Just as it is not for the commission also to offer Vice President Noli de Castro the vice presidency in the context of a parliamentary system so that he will not complain that his terms is being cut.) Offering carrots to politicians to change the Constitution is about as low as one can go. Elective offices are not for the politicians to give, and especially not to themselves in the case of lawmakers. That power resides in the electorate.

And now that the administration wants to keep holding out the hope of no elections to its supporters, it will be there to spoil every attempt to seriously examine and debate the provisions of the Constitution that really need to be changed. Until now, the debates on the ConCom's recommendations have focused on "No-El." With the administration opting to keep the controversial issue alive, it is doubtful if the discussions will move on to more substantial issues, like the shift to a parliamentary and federal system of government.

Much remains to be done before Charter change can become a reality, even without the distraction of the No-El debate. If those pushing for Charter change are truly convinced that a change in the form of government is absolutely necessary to reform society and lick poverty, they will have to rise above their own selfish interests to set the process of change in motion. For the congressmen, this means resisting the temptation of prolonging their stay in office for free. For the senators, it means looking beyond their presidential ambitions as well as rising above their pique. For Malacañang, it means going beyond the President's current troubles and serving as a lightning rod for real constitutional change.

Above all, perhaps, the two branches of the government need to impress upon the people the imperative and the urgency of constitutional change. To do that, they must earn the trust of the people. Conjuring the No-El scenario certainly does not achieve that.

Criticizing the critic

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THIS IS MY ANSWER TO THE ARTICLE written by Ismael G. Khan Jr., information officer of the Supreme Court, and published in this paper last Wednesday. I compliment him for his loyalty to the institution but, regrettably, not to open-mindedness and accuracy.

He faults me for worrying that as now constituted, the Supreme Court is likely to support President Macapagal-Arroyo who has appointed as many as 12 of its present members. He cites the cases questioning Fernando Poe Jr.'s natural-born citizenship, the EVAT and Mining Laws, and the Piatco, where many of the justices voted against their benefactor. These cases, however, did not directly challenge GMA, the parties directly involved being Poe and Congress that enacted the said laws while Piatco, in which she was personally interested, was decided to her liking. The decisions may have indirectly favored her, but they were not intended for her direct advantage.

They cannot be compared to the case of Brillantes vs. Yorac, 192 SCRA 358, declaring President Aquino's designation of a temporary chair of the Commission on Elections an unconstitutional intrusion into the internal affairs of that independent body. The 13 justices who participated in the case voted unanimously against her although they had all been appointed by her. In the case of Marcos vs. Manglapus, 177 SCRA 668, she won by only one vote against the seven dissenters, also appointed by her, who held that her personal rejection of the petition of the Marcoses to return to this country violated the Bill of Rights. In Laurel v. Garcia, 187 SCRA 797, nine of her appointees also trounced and embarrassed her.

As for needless verbosity, I simply repeat what I wrote in my column of Aug. 27, 2005, on the second impeachment resolution against then Chief Justice Hilario Davide, as follows:

"This interpretation was reached in the 74-page *ponencia* after discussion of collateral issues like separation of powers, judicial review, *locus standi* distinguished from party-in-interest, justiciability, and other topics already sufficiently examined in previous cases. I believe they did not have to be repeated at length in the decision unless the purpose was to demonstrate the efficiency of Justice Carpio-Morales' research staff.

"As if to follow the leader, 6 justices who had come to the same conclusion as the *ponente* filed their own concurring opinions to further congest the decision and add to the confusion... They filled all of 108 pages of the SCRA.

"Did they think that the *ponencia* was inadequate and should be supplemented with their own wisdom? Or were they simply bored for doing nothing because they have decided all the cases raffled to them and had no more work to do except enrich Philippine jurisprudence?"

The concurring justices could have submitted their separate views during the deliberation for inclusion in the main *ponencia*. Chief Justice Fred Ruiz Castro wrote a concurring opinion in the case of Sanidad vs. Commission on Elections, 73 SCRA 333, maybe because he felt that the majority *ponencia* was insufficient or, more likely, to please Marcos. I did file a concurrence on religious freedom in the Ebralinag Case, 219 SCRA 256, but it was not "lengthy" unless you consider two pages too long.

My friend seeks to impress us with the present Court's caseload, but is probably unaware of the 8,000 cases the martial law justices left unattended that we had to resolve when we took over in 1986. Additionally, there was the deluge of new cases filed with us because of the renewed confidence of the public in the reorganized judiciary. The number of neglected and new cases was practically insurmountable, but we tried our best to reduce it. That was the reason why we had to work at home during weekends, coupled with Chief Justice Claudio Teehankee's request that we double our output, which we did, as our gift to him on his retirement.

I will also stress that we had sessions en banc twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, to deliberate on the more important cases that we felt should be resolved by the full Court. The present Court now meets en banc only on Tuesdays, possibly because it does not have to be as busy as we were. It even had the leisure to spend many hours rehearsing the rigodon they performed at Chief Justice Davide's birthday party last month. They might have devoted those delightful moments to the still anxiously awaited decision on the petition against Executive Order No. 464.

I know comparison is odious, but I did not begin it. Now I am accused of being "less than a constructive critic" for disputing Mr. Khan's assertion that "the present Court's workload has grown heavier since the time of Justice Cruz." At least we did not dance the rigodon then.

Finally, although this refers to factual matters only, I did not misname the Francisco Case as Mr. Khan suggests. If he will go to Page 44 of Volume 415 of the SCRA, he will find that I correctly stated the title, not incorrectly as he claims. Also, the concluding paragraph of his article should be in quotation marks because it was I, not he, who wrote it. But I will presume, for the sake of our friendship, that it was the proofreader's fault.

Are we in a 'coup trap'?

GET REAL

Solita Collas-Monsod

TO THOSE IN THE MILITARY who think that they have or are the answer to the Filipino people's prayers for a better life; to those "activists" who do not worry that these military elements are threatening to overthrow the government, but even seem to encourage or welcome such noises and moves; to those politicians or businessmen who are financing their activities: *please* take a reality check.

The first thing to consider is that the Filipino people, whom you seem to be so anxious to help and defend, are not at all looking forward to that kind of help and defense. This is not an assertion based on anecdotal evidence or personal experience. Surveys from both Pulse Asia and the Social Weather Stations show this conclusively: the great majority of Filipinos don't want to be under any form of military rule—they are fully aware of the flaws of a democracy, but they would rather stick with it, thank you.

In their preference for democracy, Filipinos find themselves in good company, as with Winston Churchill, who almost 60 years ago made this statement: "We accept in the fullest sense of the word the settled and persistent will of the people. All this idea of a group of supermen and super-planners, such as we see before us, 'playing the angel,' as the French call it, and making the masses of the people do what they think is good for them, without any check or correction, is a violation of democracy. Many forms of government have been tried, and will be tried in this world of sin and woe. No one pretends that democracy is perfect or all-wise. Indeed, it has been said that democracy is the worst form of government except all those other forms that have been tried from time to time; but there is the broad feeling in our country that the people should rule, continuously rule, and that public opinion, expressed by all constitutional means, should shape, guide, and control the actions of ministers who are their servants and not their masters."

Secondly, you, pro-coup groups, must try to get away from the time warp you seem to have gotten into. Hello? While you are toying actively with the idea of mounting a coup that will give you the power you want (in the guise of saving the Filipino people, naturally), please note that the rest of the whole world is moving away from the "culture of the coup."

And, as in the first consideration, the world does have a reason for distancing itself from coups. An excellent source of information on this issue is Benjamin M. Friedman's "The Moral Consequences of Economic Growth," in which he makes a strong case for economic growth creating an environment favorable to democracy, tolerance and solidarity (and thus should be encouraged worldwide), while stagnation does the reverse. In the course of laying out his case, he brings out a wealth of data that should be very instructive to all of us.

Start with the finding that experience around the world shows that poor economic performance (e.g. falling per capita incomes) provides a fertile environment for coups; the study showing that the probability of a country's undergoing a coup depends on both the level and recent growth of its average income. Or, to put it another way, he cites a study showing that each doubling of per capita income reduces the probability of a country's experiencing a successful military coup by 40 percent to 70 percent (depending on the region of the world—in Asia it seems to be 50 percent).

African countries that experienced coups saw their per capita incomes decline by 2.6 percent in the years when the coup occurred, while the decline was only 0.8 percent in countries undergoing legitimate major changes; the rise was by 1.9 percent in years when there were no major changes. In Asia, where coups are more unusual because incomes rarely fall, the average per capita income growth in coup countries is one percent, which is far superior to the African situation, but very low compared to the average Asian per capita income growth.

So what's the problem if poor economic performance goads potential saviors to come out of their barracks and take over? Maybe they can do better, after all.

Unfortunately, that does not seem to have been the historical experience. What is more likely to happen is that the country gets into a "coup trap"—which goes something like this: falling incomes invite coups, which generate political instability, which in turn generates poor economic performance and falling incomes, which invite coups.

A more graphic (and cynical) analysis—not in Friedman—could be that the incoming coup leaders, i.e., the new government, might engage in predation to vanquish their opponents, which creates incentives for asset holders to support rival groups. These groups must engage in predation in order to force the incumbent government from power and, later, for them to stay in power, then the economy takes the hit. Uneasy lies the head that wrests a crown.

The effects of a "coup trap"? Just look at Ghana, which experienced its first military coup in 1966, to overthrow the corrupt Kwame Nkrumah. In the next 15 years, it had five successive military governments. Income per capita in Ghana has risen by only 0.4 percent per year since 1975. Just look at Fiji, whose succession of coups has resulted in lower human development vis-à-vis other Pacific nations. So much for saving the people.

But then—could it be that we are already in a coup trap, Philippine style? God forbid.

Thinking foreign

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE CENTRIST DEMOCRAT INTERNATIONAL (CDI) Asia-Pacific is billed as the "first regional political organization in Asia" although former President Fidel Ramos, who founded the local chapter of CDI, the Lakas-Christian Muslim Democrat (Lakas-CMD) party, prefers to call it "Asia's first transnational party." Yesterday morning, CDI Asia-Pacific was launched in a well-attended ceremony keynoted by President Macapagal Arroyo, who chairs Lakas-CMD. The three-day conference of CDI, which was founded in 1961 and today is influential in 110 countries, drew leading CDI leaders and parliamentarians from Europe, the Middle East and Asia, led by CDI president and former Spanish President Jose Ma. Aznar and Speaker Jose de Venecia, CDI Asia vice president. An indication of its political reach is that 11 out of the 25 prime ministers from the European Union belong to CDI.

Yesterday afternoon, CDI held the first "Global Interfaith Dialogue" in this part of the world. Today, the conference continues with deliberations on economic development and on women and human rights issues, capped by the first formal meeting of CDI Asia-Pacific, the counterpart of CDI Europe, whose newly elected chair is Thailand's Thaksin Shinawatra.

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The Global Interfaith Dialogue was the fruit of a Philippine initiative first broached by Speaker De Venecia as a way to resolve the political conflicts of the world. GMA proposed it at the CDI Latin America conference in Mexico City three years ago and to US President George Bush during her state visit to Washington three years ago. The initiative culminated in the big interfaith dialogue at the UN during its 60th foundation anniversary, presided by GMA.

The Manila interfaith dialogue has drawn leaders from various world religions—in the best spirit of ecumenism of Pope John Paul II. The dialogue included Buddhist monks from Cambodia and Thailand, and prominent Muslim leaders from Pakistan, Jordan, a Jewish rabbi from Israel, Hindu leader Dr. Shrivatsa Goswami from India, our own Ricardo Cardinal Vidal and Bishop Efraim Tendero of the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches, and El Shaddai's Mike Velarde and Chief Imam Cheikh Assane Cisse, president of the African American Islamic Institute of Senegal.

President Arroyo, in a warmer-than-usual speech, paid tribute to the role of faith in bridging the great divide between communities and nations. "Faith is the greatest antidote to terrorism," she said. She was warmly applauded when she said that "vestiges of conflict in Mindanao are finally fading away," thanks to the help of other world leaders. Terrorism was uppermost in the minds of the conference participants, with former President Ramos recalling Pope John Paul II who said, "terrorism has driven to all of us the reality of the oneness of the human family."

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Visiting foreign leaders paid generous tribute to the Philippines and found a way to connect to it, one way or another. For instance, former Prime Minister Wilfried Martens of Belgium, president of the European People's Party, who is on his first visit here, recalled how he made the "important decision" to finance with a concessional, no-interest loan the construction of Metro Manila's LRT during his term 25 years ago. JDV also recalled that the CDI, then under the presidency of Martens, was the first foreign political group to recognize GMA's assumption of office in 2001.

Former Prime Minister Kjell Magne Bondevik of Norway, who managed to squeeze in a Manila visit for only 17 hours owing to his tight schedule, described CDI as the "third alternative," the "centrist political force" between capitalism and socialism. Norway continues to support the Philippines' efforts to draw up a peace agreement with dissidents, and today that country is at the forefront of efforts to bring the Sri Lankan government and Tamil Tiger rebels to the negotiating table.

On the other hand, Pakistan's Mushahid Hussain Sayed, secretary general of Pakistan's Muslim League, lauded the "hopeful signs" in the horizon. Among them, he noted, are the pace talks between the Philippine government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front with the help of the Organization of Islamic Conference, the "recent free and democratic elections in Palestine" and Turkey's entry into the European Union, which shows that the EU is "no longer just a Christian club."

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Jose Ma. Aznar's meaty discourse yesterday centered on the CDI's efforts in various continents to strengthen democratic institutions based on ideology and time-honored values, such as the "fundamental difference between man and woman" and democracy and human rights. He also made special mention of CDI's efforts to create a beachhead in Africa, "a continent we cannot ignore," and the challenges it faces in Latin America, such as against regimes with "totalitarian designs." Aznar, 52, noted that, to the despair of terrorists, democracy is beginning to take root in countries like Iraq. But he also warned of problems "in this part of the world" (Asia), such as the growing influence of China ("it must be drawn to our system at our own terms") and the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

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Apostolate corner: Every Valentine's Day, Retrouvaille Philippines, the worldwide ministry dedicated to helping troubled marriages, fittingly holds its first weekend healing program for the year. This program has helped many couples rebuild failing or even antagonistic relationships. In many instances, it has brought back separated couples or those who had stopped communicating with each other. The first Retrouvaille weekend for 2006 will start on Friday evening, Feb. 10 and end Sunday afternoon, Feb. 12, at the Mother of Mercy Spiritual Center, SVD Road, Tagaytay City. For details call Fr. Dave Clay at 0918-902-0511 and 523-3361 and 525-0308, or Ding and Belen at 0916-573-0097 and 776-4413, or Nes and Inday at 0916-443-8346 and 938-9719. All calls are treated confidentially.

Songs and their times

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I hear the train a comin'/ it's rollin 'round the bend/and I a'int seen the sunshine since I don't know when/ I'm stuck in Folsom Prison/ and time keeps draggin' on/ But that train keeps a movin' on down to-San-An-Tone

When I was just a baby/my mamie told me/ "Son always be a good boy/ don't ever play with guns."/ But I shot a man in Reno/ just to watch him die/When I hear the whistle blowin' I hang my head and cry

Well, if they freed me from this prison/ if that railroad train was mine/ I bet I'd move it all a little farther down the line/ Far from Folsom Prison/ that's where I want to stay/ And I'd let that lonesome whistle/ blow my blues away.

—Johnny Cash, "Folsom Prison Blues"

ACCORDING TO THE CHRONOLOGY OF "WALK The Line," the bio-pic of Johnny Cash starring Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon as Cash's wife June Carter, "Folsom Prison Blues" was written during Cash's stint with the Air Force in Germany. A key scene shows Cash being auditioned by legendary record producer Sam Phillips (who is also credited with discovering Elvis) and "underwhelming" the producer with their performance of a Gospel classic. "If you were hit by a truck and you had just one song to sing," Phillips urges Cash, "what song would it be?" That song was "Folsom Prison Blues," borrowing its title from a prison movie that Cash watched in an Air Force base, but echoing the composer's own feelings of being caged in by his military superiors.

Fittingly, the movie opens in Folsom Prison, where Cash held a "comeback concert" after years of battling addiction to amphetamines and struggling with his own rocky personal life. The live recording of that concert, "In Folsom Prison," became Cash's biggest-selling album, and one of the best-selling albums of all time, successfully reestablishing Cash as an icon of American rock and country music.

Indeed, the flashbacks from that prison concert, back to Cash's hard-scrabble childhood in Arkansas and up to that point, make up the heart of the film. It is a heart-rending chronicle, one filled with drama, pathos and, of course, music.

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"THE EARLY fifties were the height of the smooth post-war sound, Doris Day and 'easy listening,'" director James Mangold says. "Musak was invented the year John released his first singles; even country music of the early fifties was highly produced, the edges smoothed for greater 'appeal.' One of the things I wanted the music in the film to convey was the startling roughness, the good humor, the cockiness, the urgency, heat and fire that shook people when these boys first played to crowds."

Among the "boys" joining Cash on the grueling road tours they took in the rough back country roads were Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins, a young and handsome Elvis Presley, as well as June Carter, who hailed from a revered country music family and had been a performer since she was a child.

The movie is filled with their songs, genre-busting numbers that heralded the birth of rock-and-roll, and their antics. The first "rock stars" ever, they set models of behavior for their disciples who came after, including drug-taking and trashing hotel rooms.

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STILL, the heart of the movie, the filmmakers say, is the love story between Johnny and June, which develops over a decade of furtive friendship and professional partnership that slowly and painfully moves on to romance and marriage.

Joaquin Phoenix and Reese Witherspoon truly deserve their Golden Globes for the movie, since they not so much portray Johnny Cash and June Carter as embody them. Looking at archive pictures of the singing duo, one is astonished not just by how Phoenix and Witherspoon resemble them, but how they exude the same attitude of coiled tension on Cash's part, and knowing awareness on Carter's.

It is telling that the movie ends with Carter's acceptance of Cash's onstage proposal, even though the pair continued to perform together for over 35 years. In fact, before his death in 2003, a few months after his wife's passing, Cash recorded "The Essential Johnny Cash" and received a posthumous Grammy for it. By that time, inducted into both the Rock-and-Roll Hall of Fame and the Country Music Hall of Fame (the only one besides Elvis to make it to both pantheons), Johnny Cash had made the transition from rock rebel to "The Man in Black," a symbol as much as a model for young musicians.

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YOU don't have to be a big Johnny Cash or June Carter fan, or even appreciate American country music to enjoy "Walk the Line." Like "Ray" before it, which tells the story of Ray Charles, another pioneering, genre-busting songwriter/performer, "Walk the Line" tells the story of one man and his times, and how his music reflects both the personal turmoil raging within, as well as the social shifts taking place all around him.

The film's title is taken from a song, one of Cash's classics, that was inspired, so the scriptwriter hints, for June at a time of great ambivalence about their budding relationship. It's as romantic as anyone can get:

I keep a close watch on this heart of mine/ I keep my eyes wide open all the time/ I keep the ends out for the tie that binds. Because you're mine, I walk the line.

I find it very, very easy to be true/ I find myself alone when each day is through/Yes, I'll admit I'm a fool for you/ Because you're mine, I walk the line.

As sure as night is dark and day is light/ I keep you on my mind both day and night/ And happiness I've known proves that it's right/ Because you're mine/I walk the line.

You've got a way to keep me on your side/ You give me cause for love that I can't hide/For you I know I'd even try to turn the tide/ Because you're mine, I walk the line.

—Johnny Cash, "I Walk the Line"

Germans in the Philippines

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

THE GERMAN CLUB IS SET TO CELEBRATE ITS centennial this February with a grand ball, but despite a relationship spanning decades and perhaps even centuries, the fact doesn't impact much on Filipino consciousness. This despite the fact that Germany may still occupy third rung in Philippine economic relations and has consistently aided the country with grants since the normalization of ties in 1954.

Glancing over the amount of aid received by the Philippines from Germany, one is again struck by the help other countries extend to us. There is the government-to-government aid that supported inter-island shipping, reforestation, erosion control, etc. that makes you wonder why landslides continue as well as iron and steel projects like the one in Iligan, but we know what happened to that one. And then there's the German federal government's grants to private institutions like Misereor, support from the German Catholic Church which donates to projects of the University of San Carlos in Cebu or constructs hospitals like St. Paul's in Leyte and Our Lady of Lourdes in Sta. Mesa, Manila, and St. John Bosco Technical School in Tarlac. There are foundations like the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Konrad Adenauer Foundation. And here we are, still the second-to-the-last on the economic totem poll of Asia. Filipinos being in general not reflective enough, we are not about to ask why.

But going back to the German Club's centennial, it isn't particularly well known that among Ferdinand Magellan's crew were three Germans, the first to ever set foot on Philippine soil: Hans Varque on the Concepcion, Jorge Aleman (translates as George the German), and a certain Hans identified simply as "a German" on the Victoria. Only Varque survived, becoming perhaps the first German to circumnavigate the globe.

The first 200 years of Spanish rule saw the entry of any number of German religious, including the Jesuit Georg Josef Kamel, famous for having the flower Camilla named after him. By the 19th century, there were all sorts of scientists like Johannes Andreas Zobel who established Botica Zobel on Calle Real in Intramuros in 1834 and whose descendants are still around mostly in Makati. Dr. F. Blumentritt, Rizal's friend, probably wrote more scientific books (numbering 33) on the country in both German and Spanish than many local scientists, including a mythological dictionary and a list of native tribes and their spoken language.

For those who are on to historical trivia, the now vanished landmark Pines Hotel in Baguio (replaced by an SM mall, what else?) was first built by a German linguist, Otto Scheerer. Not surprisingly, its architecture was reminiscent of Bavaria and Switzerland. Scheerer is known for having legally created the Mountain Province, written a book on the Nabaloi dialect and another on the cultural similarities between the natives of Northern Luzon and the aborigines of Formosa. Together with T.H. Pardo de Tavera, he established the Department of Oriental Languages at the University of the Philippines and has a research institute in linguistics named after him.

The first decade of the 20th century saw the entry of the Belgian sisters who established St. Scholastica's College, whose music department antedates the UP Conservatory of Music, the Society of the Divine Word missionaries (SVD) and the nuns of the Holy Ghost, now known as the Holy Spirit, although the old name seems much more picturesque.

In 1906, the Deutsdier Club was established at 209 Gen. Solano St. in Manila to service the growing German community. From then on, it maintained a rather peripatetic existence. With membership expanding, a new clubhouse was constructed in 1911 at 191 San Marcelino. Unfortunately, in 1917 with the entry of the United States into World War I, the club was closed, the property confiscated and sold. Many Germans were deported, others interned and German firms and property taken over by the Alien Property Custodian.

By 1921, there were again enough Germans in Manila to warrant reopening of the club, this time at 1067 Arlegui in Quiapo. Two years later, it was transferred to 1032 Isaac Peral, a more spacious and comfortable building. Finally, in 1924 construction of a new club house began, with the purchase of a 4,000 sq. m. lot on San Luis Street, a stone's throw from Casino Español. This was to be the most ill-fated of its properties, the scene of one of the three massacres that occurred in the Malate/Ermita area during the liberation of Manila. The other two were at De la Salle and the Rizal Memorial Stadium.

Since Germany was an ally of Japan, many civilians took refuge in the club, believing it safe from the Japanese. On Feb. 10, 1945, it is believed 2,000 civilians were at the premises. Gasoline was poured by Japanese Marines into the basement of the club that had been converted into an air-raid shelter. Those who tried to escape were shot. Only five people survived the massacre. The location of the club on San Luis has since remained empty.

The club resumed operations in 1954, and for the next 25 years continued its nomadic existence. From the upper floor of Heinz Woelke's New Europe restaurant on Isaac Peral (now UN Avenue), to the Elk's Club on Roxas Boulevard, to Summit Restaurant on Mabini, to Patio Flamenco again on Roxas Boulevard, then to the third floor of the New Swiss Inn near the Paco Cemetery in 1969.

In 1979, the club bought space at Eurovilla II in Makati, its present location, where members are probably hoping that they may have finally found a more permanent home.

What's the language of our students' dreams?

YOUNG BLOOD

Pau M. Fontanos

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I AM FROM BICOL AND THE product of a bilingual education. However, I would like to believe that I came out of it unscathed, without a "linguistic identity crisis." At 28, I know that my mind, heart and "tongue" are in their right places.

This is probably because I was born to a family of voracious readers who exposed me to a wide array of literature, from Bicolano songs and folklore to Filipino show-biz rags and Shakespeare. I never wanted for books while I was growing up in Iriga. Reading made it possible for me to acquire an affinity for language and revel in the beauty, rhythms and nuances of words.

However, neither my family nor my teachers taught me to think that one language was better than another. I grew up believing that each language has its own genius and I am proud that I can speak, understand, read and write in Irigaño, Bicolano, Filipino and English, with equal proficiency. So it bothers me that some lawmakers (who are presumably more linguistically schizophrenic than I am) are pushing for English to be the sole medium of instruction in our schools.

It is not hard to see why they are doing this, considering how much the call-center business has expanded and the Arroyo administration's intention to turn every single Filipino graduate into exportable labor. It is unfortunate that legislation is being being used to make Filipinos fit into the global economy.

The proponents of this bill cite the dismal performance of our students in recent national standardized tests and international education surveys to show how our English proficiency has sunk. But have they asked why millions of our elementary and high school students are performing poorly in standardized tests written in English? Is it really a question of what they know or is it because they have difficulties with the language in which the questions are written? Perhaps the reason many of our students are not doing well in standardized tests in English is their lack of skills in that language and not a lack of education. We should be more alarmed if such tests are couched in Filipino and they still do not make the mark.

And perhaps our students' proficiency in English has declined not because of the incompetence of their teachers or the lack of encouragement to learn it in their homes. The real reason for this downtrend could be that our students do not have a sense of ownership of the language. English is not the language they speak at home, in the street, at work or with friends, and so they fail to see that they have as much right to it as any other student somewhere in the world and that it is theirs for the taking. English remains irrelevant to their lives, and forcing them to learn it will not make them do so until they themselves decide that they need it and they want to learn it so they can use it for their own reasons and purposes.

Before they dictate the language of our schools, our lawmakers should first consider the realities of our students' lives and not merely accept as fact the views of certain sectors that English is good and we must master it or the world would leave us behind. Language planning must be ultimately for empowerment. Paolo Freire says educational empowerment for students comes when, aided by schools, their own consciousness comes into fruition enabling them to negotiate their learning, collaborate with their educators, and engage in critical thinking to transform the realities of their lives.

English as a medium of instruction, like any other language used in the Philippines, possesses this liberating potential. And this potential can be unlocked if the government, business and other interest groups overhaul their mindset that looks at English merely as a source of economic power. Instead, English should be looked at as language of empowerment that will facilitate an awakening among our students when they use it to look critically at their place in the greater political, economic and social order. Then they can choose whether to use and own the language or not. The linguist H.G. Widdowson once said: "You are proficient in a language to the extent that you possess it, make it your own, bend it to your will, assert yourself through it rather than simply submit to the dictates of its form."

Before submitting to the dictates of capitalist interests, our lawmakers should first guarantee that education remains a "social contract" and promote not one language over another but social justice above all. The celebrated American multicultural educator, Sonia Nieto, reminds everyone that education must give every student an equal chance to dream. This can be done by ensuring that the teaching and learning processes and the language in which they happen actually promote equality through wider access to schooling, providing genuine access to knowledge, celebrating diversity and individualism and protecting personal freedoms. The medium of instruction must in the end aid our students in the process of becoming persons, not just disposable human capital.

A comprehensive language policy in the Philippines must embrace the truth that more than 100 languages are spoken in millions of Filipino homes. Educational practices and policies that accommodate this reality may work better for our students if we affirm the strengths and not the "deficiencies" our students bring from their home languages to their schools. Literacy learning has been proven to be easiest when instruction in the student's mother tongue is provided first, especially during the first three grades with option to continue for two more grade levels if necessary.

Such a highly individualized bilingual program will necessitate heavy funding from the government. What is needed then to respond correctly to our students' language needs is a national budget that is more biased toward education and not a law that has the potential to rob our students, parents and communities of the right to learn in the language of their choice by prescribing one language as the source of knowledge.

When it comes to educational policies and practices, the government, educational institutions and political leaders must listen to the students. In deciding the medium of instruction in our schools, lawmakers should make sure that our students' voices are heard. These voices must speak not only for urban Filipinos but also those in the regions and rural indigenous groups. Parents and educators should be consulted, too. And their views must be incorporated into the decision-making process.

Before we decide what language of instruction will work best in the Philippines, perhaps we should ask the question: What is the language of the Filipino student's dream? From the answer to that question, the government, schools and communities can work to create genuine opportunities for our students to dream by using the language in which they dream.

Pau M. Fontanos, 28, is a graduate student of language teaching at the University of the Philippines College of Education in Diliman.

Clearing house for CTPL deals

THIS REFERS TO THE COLUMN OF NEAL CRUZ, titled "A third proposal for a new CTPL system." (PDI, 1/13/05)

The problem during the past years is that the amount of taxes collected by the government vis-à-vis the total number of vehicles do not tally. It appears that the government has been shortchanged for a considerable period of time.

I find it impossible to believe that there are fly-by-night insurers. The Insurance Commission maintains a list of licensed or authorized insurance companies as well as insurers who have been issued cease-and-desist orders. The Land Transportation Office must have this list. At the very least, when the LTO is presented a certificate of cover (COC), it should be able to check if the insurer of the COC is in that list. Having said that, there is no chance for a fly-by-night insurer to slip a spurious COC past the LTO.

What has actually been happening is that licensed but unscrupulous insurance companies have not been reporting some or most of the COCs that they issue. It would not be far-fetched to believe that these same companies are probably in cahoots with some LTO personnel in selling these unreported COCs. Since the taxes due on these policies are not remitted to the government, there is money to spare for these collaborators.

The insurance commissioner's proposal for a clearing house is supported by the association of insurance companies. The clearing house will see to it that all issued COCs are accounted for and the corresponding taxes are remitted to the government.

The Government Service Insurance System's proposal to take over the compulsory third party liability (CTPL) business from the private sector not only contravenes the GSIS law, which limits its insurance activities to government-owned or -controlled enterprises, it also goes against the Philippine Constitution which provides for a free and open market devoid of government intervention in areas well served by the private sector.

I cannot help but laugh when Cruz suggested that "it (the GSIS) would assure quick payments (from 5 to 6 days) for claimants." The GSIS is lucky that government entities cannot choose their own insurer, otherwise many of them would end up migrating.

On the management company that would like to run the CTPL business for the insurance industry, for the information of Cruz, that company's name is Road Accident Managed Services Inc. or Ramsi. It is a newly created company with no track record to speak of but with plenty of bubble to whip up a frenzy.

I understand that the company is looking at 30 percent of the premiums as their fees—that's roughly P720 million yearly out of an estimated P2.7-billion business. Not bad for a start-up company with no history to boot.

—SALVADOR L. LACSON,
managing director,
Lacson and Lacson Insurance Brokers Inc., Burgundy Tower,
252 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave.,
Makati City

Doctor who serves as a low-profile, anti-poverty warrior

AS A FILIPINO WHO HAS BEEN living in foreign shores for the past years, I am concerned about the reported departure of medical practitioners from the Philippines for so-called "greener pastures." As a result, hospitals are closing down, not to mention, medical schools.

Adversely affected by all the continuing exodus of professionals (of other fields as well) are our less fortunate countrymen whose basic medical and educational needs would no longer be adequately provided for. This is the result of our country being in economic shambles. With poverty staring us in the face, we are left with no recourse but to fend for ourselves and work abroad.

However, it has come to my attention that in the heart of Davao City, there is one doctor-neurologist, Dr. Jeff Ho, who has been conducting, without fail, free clinics on Sundays. From the latest information I gathered, Dr. Ho is now also back with an early morning radio program, "Consultation On The Air," after a similar program of his in a prime time evening slot went off the air.

With Dr. Ho, senior citizens enjoy free consultations anytime of the week, while paying patients avail of the city's most affordable consultation fee. There's also his Pro-Masa Pharmacy, which sells medicines at very low prices.

This one indefatigable and selfless doctor opened my eyes to the challenge of actively helping alleviate the effects of poverty. Dr. Ho's service to the less fortunate would make a wonderful, inspiring life story.

By the way, I would like to thank the INQUIRER for its dauntless reporting of the truth. Also, the paper's editorials are objective and fearless. I never miss reading them.

—NAVEED SANTOS,
naveed_santos1960@yahoo.ca

LETTERS

Bold show of nationalism

THE ADVERTISEMENT OF THE Consumer Oil Price Watch (COPW), urgently appealing to our leaders to temporarily set aside debates on Charter change and, instead, to give the highest priority to pending economic and financial reforms (PDI, 1/17/06), was not only a bold demonstration of Raul T. Concepcion's nationalism but also a very timely and relevant call.

The COPW's proposal to hold national elections in May 2007, after an honest cleanup of our electoral processes and the Comelec itself, must be supported. This must be done to avoid a people's uprising, a possibility that Archbishop Oscar Cruz has warned about. This concern, I believe, is shared by various nationalistic and peace advocate groups; by political, spiritual, civil society groups; and now, by the more than a million victims of bankrupt pre-need companies.

These victims of the pre-need industry are parents and students, many of whom have stopped studying. Many more will be forced to follow suit in the coming years. All of them are very, very emotional. These victims of corporate legal maneuvers and greed, I am afraid, are ready to join the uprising in one way or the other, albeit in a peaceful but forceful manner, just to get the education they are longing for and to get restitution for their sufferings.

They are also committed to advocate good corporate governance and consumer protection, and to fight corruption in government as their contribution to society to restore trust and moral order.

—LEO C. MARIANO,
10 Sampaguita St.,
Town & Country Executive Village,
Antipolo City,

Some corrections to the AUPP news

THIS HAS REFERENCE TO THE news report "Tribe finds inspiration in corn mill." (PDI, 1/22/06) First of all, we thank the INQUIRER for featuring the "Aid to the Uprooted People Program (AUPP). Secondly, we wish to make some corrections to some details in the report.

The Citizens' Disaster Resource Center should be Citizens' Disaster Response Center (CDRC).

We also wish to add that the Naboc village community in Monkayo, Compostela Valley, is just one of the 63 barangays in the four Mindanao regions that are currently benefiting from the two-year program funded by the European Union Delegation to the European Commission to the Philippines.

The AUPP is being implemented by the CDRC through its regional centers in Mindanao, in response to the Mindanao people's call for true and lasting peace in their communities.

As correctly cited in the INQUIRER report, the Naboc community, as well as the rest of the 63 beneficiary barangays, has long been threatened by militarization, which has been the government's response to insurgency and to the opposition to the supposedly developmental projects, whose real end is the displacement of local communities.

—REY K. PALACIO,
Research and Public Information Department,
Citizens' Disaster Response Center, 72-A Times St.,
West Triangle Homes, QC

Fooling people through Council of State

WHILE WE, INQUIRER READERS, appreciate the differing views appearing in the Opinion section, sometimes, reading those pro-Arroyo opinions dulls our senses and simply insults our intelligence. Take the case of one column titled "Elected officials should attend Council meet." (PDI, 1/19/06) Yes, we know that, under ordinary circumstances, elected officials are duty-bound to heed the call of their duly-elected head. But these are not ordinary times.

To date, the issue of legitimacy has not been resolved even halfway. Duly elected representatives of the people should not yield to the calls of public officials who do not have a clear mandate from the people.

The Council of State meeting clearly needs the presence of duly elected (legitimate) leaders (past and present) because without them, it would be nothing but a meeting of crooks. We are reminded of the saying: "You may fool some of the people some of the time and all of the people some of the time, but you can never fool all of the people all of the time.

—GERALD GULIFARDO,
Dammam, KSA

A plea to Corazon Aquino

MOST FILIPINOS ARE AVERSE to confrontations. We just remain mum even when we are wronged and avoid those who wrong us. Did Cory Aquino demonstrate this Filipino trait when she declined to attend the Council of State? I believe so. How sad that this former President, the mother of our country, is not interested in finding the answers to our nation's problems.

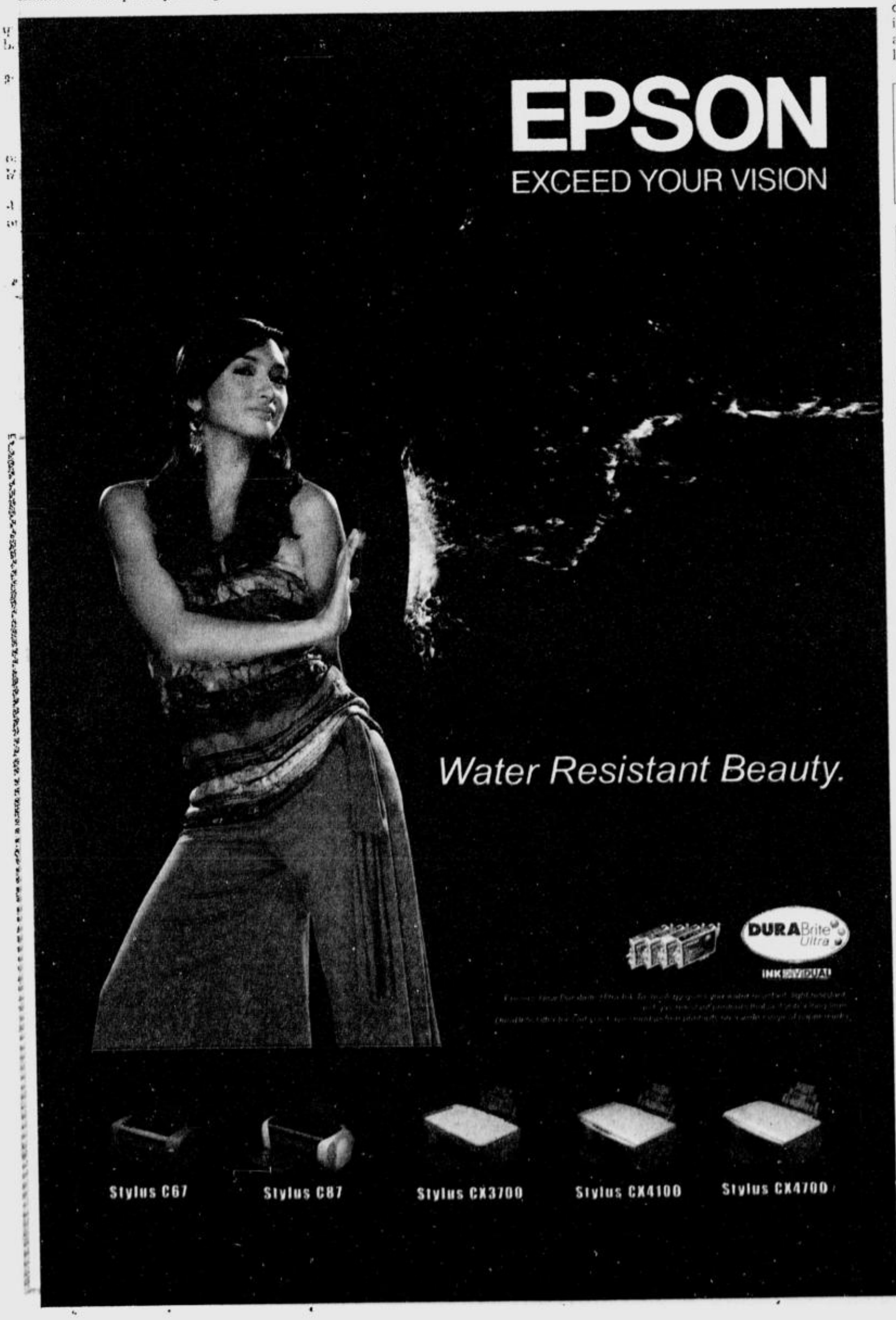
It seems she's only interested in telling the nation who to blame for the problems it faces. I would like to implore Ms Aquino to take her rightful place among the leaders of our country, and help find out how to save our people from the economic and social abyss we have fallen into.

Your country needs you again Ms Aquino, please heed its call.

—JEROME BAYHON,
jeromebayhon@yahoo.com

Erratum

In the Jan. 24 issue, the editorial "Unequal relationship" misstated the first name of Foreign Secretary Romulo. The correct name is Alberto, not Roberto. Our apologies.—Ed.



Republic of the Philippines
OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN
Ombudsman Building, Agham Road, North Triangle, Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN SECURITY REQUIREMENT OF 56 SECURITY GUARDS FOR CY 2006-2007

The OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN, through its Bids and Awards Committee, intends to apply the sum of SIXTEEN MILLION EIGHT HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P16,800,000.00), being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) from the Office 2006 Approved Budget to payments for the Office Of The Ombudsman Security Requirement of 56 Security Guards for CY 2006-2007. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN now invites sealed Bids from eligible bidders for Office Of The Ombudsman Security Requirement of 56 Security Guards for CY 2006-2007. Delivery of the goods/services is required within the period as prescribed in the bidding documents. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder/s with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. In case two (2) or more bidders tie in the financial proposals, and area eventually found to be equally post-qualified, "drawing of lots" shall be resorted to as the tie-breaking method in accordance with GPPB Circular No. 06-2005. The contract shall be then be awarded to the Lone Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) determined after Post Qualification, or after the drawing of lots in case of tie.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below beginning 24 January 2006, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. daily.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable bidding fee in the amount of SEVENTEEN THOUSAND PESOS (P 17,000.00).

The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective bidders or his authorized representative.

The OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN will hold a PRE-BID CONFERENCE open to all interested parties on 07 February 2006 at 9:00 a.m. at the following address: GSD Conference Room, 2/F Office of the Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road, North Triangle Quezon City.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on 21 February 2006 at 9:00 a.m. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in the form of Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check and in an amount not less than the amount provided hereunder:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount of % of ABC to be Bid
1. Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check, Bank Draft or Irrevocable Letter of Credit	One percent (1%)
2. Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1 ½%)
3. Surety Bond	Two and a half percent (2 ½%)

BID OPENING shall be on 21 FEBRUARY 2006 at 9:30 a.m. at the GSD Conference Room, 2/F Office of the Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road, North Triangle, Quezon City in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who desire to attend the proceedings.

The OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

ROBERT E. KALLOS
Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee (BAC)
Office of the Ombudsman Bldg., Agham Road,
North Triangle, Quezon City
BAC Secretariat:
926-9032 local 221 / 926-8763 / 929-3759
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Website www.ombudsman.gov.ph

(Sgd.) ROBERT E. KALLOS
Deputy Special Prosecutor, OSP

(PDI – January 28, 2006)

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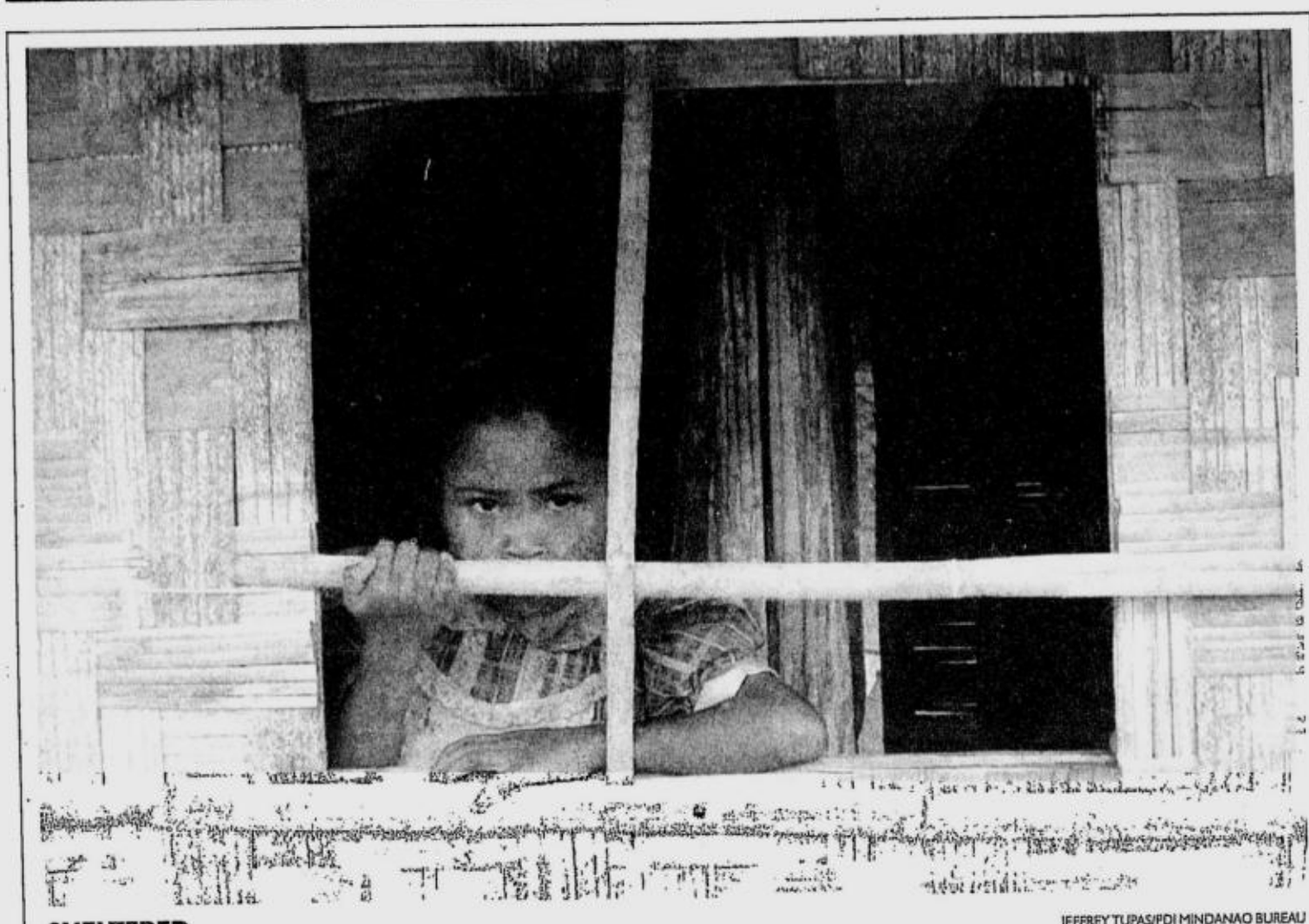


JEFFREY TUPAS/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

SHELTERED
A *lumad* girl peers out the window of her home in the hinterlands of Arakan, North Cotabato, appearing apprehensive of the photographer taking her picture.

Police say 3 dead in Isabela floods

ILAGAN, ISABELA—THREE PEOple were killed as floods spawned by heavy rains from tropical depression Agaton hit Isabela, a top police official in Cagayan Valley said.

Chief Supt. Jefferson Soriano, regional police director and chair of the regional disaster coordinating council, said the victims drowned in the towns of San Mariano and Ramon and in Cauayan City.

Soriano identified one of the fatalities as Reggie Castro, a farmer in Daragutan East, San Mariano.

In Nueva Ecija, the onion growing industry in the province suffered its worst disaster in recent years after more than 2,500 hectares of onion plants were submerged in floodwaters.

The destroyed crops, mostly in farms in Bongabon town and San Jose City, were either about to be harvested in a few weeks or were in the bulb formation stage.

Bongabon is the acknowledged "onion basket" of the country, supplying the market with at least 25 million kilograms of red creole and yellow grannex varieties.

San Jose City, on the other hand, leads in the production of the bunch-type of onion called the red shallot variety, locally known as *tanduyong*.

"There's no more hope. Our onions were swept by floods," Bongabon Mayor Amelia Gamilla told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview.

She said only about 450 hectares of onion plants in Bongabon remained standing. Gamilla estimated that production losses could reach more than P72 million.

She blamed the unrepaired protective dike destroyed by the December 2004 flash floods for the recent flooding in the town.

In Pampanga, the Pampanga River overflowed on Friday and submerged at least 20 villages in Candaba and San Luis towns, police reports said.

In Candaba, at least 2,000 hectares newly planted to rice, corn and watermelon were under two to four feet of water.

Mayor Jerry Pelayo estimated the losses at P25 million.

He said this was the fourth time that farmers bore the brunt of floods since August last year. He asked the Department of Agriculture to provide seedlings. *Reports from Anselmo Roque and Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk, and Estanislao Caldez and Villamor Visaya Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Army, MILF clash as talks draw near

DATU UNSAY, MAGUINDANAO—CLASHES BEtween government soldiers and Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) rebels continued here yesterday as the government and rebel negotiators prepare to resume peace talks in Malaysia.

Col. Gerry Jalandoni, commander of the Army's 604th Infantry Brigade, said an undetermined number of MILF fighters were killed or injured in the clashes that resulted in the recovery of a village that the rebels have earlier occupied.

There was no casualty on the government side, he said.

"We have cleared our primary targets. The rebels threatened to destroy farm-to-market road projects of the provincial government. We cannot afford to just sit down and watch them," Jalandoni said.

Jalandoni told the INQUIRER that about 600 MILF rebels abandoned Hill 224 in Barangay Tumaig and transferred to nearby Hill 590, some 5 km southwest of the community that they seized.

He said the MILF wanted to expand its territory, which was why its fighters occupied several villages, including that of nearby towns.

On Thursday evening, a clash between the police and MILF rebels also took place in nearby Mamasapano town where two rebels were killed, according to Senior Supt. Akmad Mamalinta, chief of the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police.

But the MILF said those killed were civilians caught in the crossfire when policemen fired at MILF positions.

Eid Kabalu, MILF spokesperson, also denied Jalandoni's claim that the guerrillas were expanding territory in Maguindanao. He said Hill 224 is one of the eight MILF camps recognized by the government.

"We are trying to find a peaceful solution to the conflict and we don't want war. I believe the incident will not affect the talks," Kabalu told radio station dxMS.

The encounters in Maguindanao broke out on Wednesday when soldiers and policemen stepped in to restore order after two MILF factions clashed over a land conflict.

Jalandoni said the land conflict between commanders Abdulsalam Wahid and Datu Item Ampatuan was made worse by a long standing family feud.

Jalandoni said the fighting began about 10 a.m. when 60 followers of Wahid stormed Barangay Nabundas in Shariff Aguak town.

He said a massive evacuation ensued.

Jalandoni said the clashes eventually spilled over to nearby Ampatuan, Abdullah Sangki, Mamasapano, and Datu Piang towns.

Kabalu said information reaching him indicated that the group involved was that of Wahid and Galib.

Kabalu said Wahid was trying to resolve a land conflict with the Ampatuans and "had the approval of the MILF hierarchy."

Commander Ampatuan is said to be related to Maguindanao Gov. Andal Ampatuan and ARMM Gov. Zaldy Ampatuan. *Jeoffrey Maitem, Charlie Señase and Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

ROUNDUP

'Kill PNCC' plot bared

CALAMBA CITY—An umbrella organization of motorists, consumer rights advocates and public transport operators disclosed the alleged plot of lawmakers to block the Philippine National Construction Corp. (PNCC) from renewing its franchise to run the North Luzon Expressway (NLEx) and the South Luzon Expressway (SLEx). The Laguna-based Road Users Protection Advocates (Rupa) said the purported move of congressmen from Pangasinan would eventually lead to the death of the government-owned construction company. The 30-year franchise of the PNCC will expire on April 30, 2007. *Marlon Ramos, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

2 wounded in holdup

OLONGAPO CITY—Five armed men held up a Zambales-bound Victory Liner bus on Jan. 20 at Barangay Roosevelt in Dinalupihan, Bataan, the Bataan police said. Two suspects boarded the bus, which came from Caloocan City, at Barangay Dolores in the City of San Fernando. Two more suspects rode the bus in Lubao, Pampanga, while the fifth suspect boarded it at Barangay Tipo in Hermosa, Bataan. It was along a winding road in Barangay Roosevelt where one of the suspects drew his gun and shot bus conductor Mamerto Trinidad in the stomach. A male passenger was hit in the leg. The four other suspects, armed with handguns and a hand grenade, then started robbing passengers of valuables. *Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

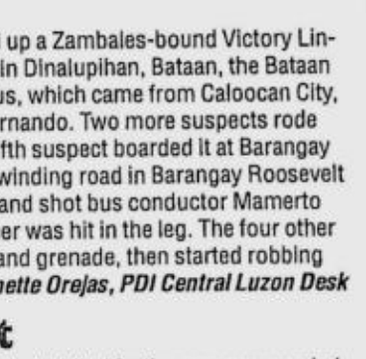
1 dead in grenade blast

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A man was killed while 16 others were wounded in a grenade explosion at an outdoor dance party in Lake Sebu, South Cotabato past midnight of Jan. 19, police said. The Lake Sebu police said in a report that Marot Gape, a resident of Sitio Lubo in Barangay Ned, was holding the grenade when it exploded. Gape was killed on the spot while the other victims were rushed to various hospitals in Sultan Kudarat and in South Cotabato. Investigators said Gape appeared to be drunk at that time and just had an argument with his wife. *Aquiles Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Natural health mission

THE BIOVITALE Holistic Center, composed of medical doctors with integrated knowledge in naturopathy, will embark on a natural health program on chronic disease prevention in the provinces. In a statement, the center said the mission aimed to "reach, teach and treat" people, particularly those in far-flung areas, on natural, practical and scientific health modalities. The team will be headed by Dr. Sonny Viloria, who will lecture on diet, massage, hydrotherapy, energy balancing and lifestyle adjustment. The health tour will cover Zamboanga City (Jan. 29), Davao City (Feb. 1), General Santos City (Feb. 3), Iloilo City (Feb. 12), San Fernando City in Pampanga (Feb. 26) and Cabanatuan City (Feb. 27).

Awards for pro-youth execs



SORSOGON CITY—The National Youth Commission (NYC) and the National Movement of Young Legislators are spearheading the recognition of outstanding legislation for youth development. Local legislators who have authored youth-oriented legislation in their respective councils may now apply for the first ever Kampeon ng Kabataan (Champion of Youths) Award. Richard Alvin Nalupta, NYC Commissioner-at-Large, said the award is open to all vice governors, vice mayors, board members, councilors, barangay captains and Sangguniang Kabataan presidents nationwide. Applications or nominations must be submitted to the NYC office at 4th Floor Bookman Bldg. 373 Quezon Avenue Quezon City

Dead dugong found near Rapu-Rapu mine site

By Blanche S. Rivera, *in Manila*
and Bobby Labalan, *PDI S. Luzon Bureau*

A PREGNANT *DUGONG* WAS FOUND DEAD IN Rapu-Rapu, Albay Wednesday, raising speculations that the endangered marine mammal could have died due to the contamination of the waters off the island, site of two recent mine spills from an Australian mining operation.

The *dugong*, measuring about seven feet and weighing around 100 kilograms, was found by fishermen and brought to Sitio Gogon in Barangay Poblacion, one of the three barangays of the mining site of the Australian Lafayette Mining Inc. (LMI).

Lawyer Julito Sarmiento, corporate secretary and director of LMI, said the *dugong* could have died from body injuries from a still unknown source.

Sarmiento said there were indications it was bludgeoned.

In a statement, the LMI said it was unlikely that the *dugong* was caught off Rapu-Rapu because the island is not known to have *dugongs*.

"The mine spill in Rapu-Rapu last October could not have been the cause of the *dugong's* death—assuming without granting the *dugong* lived around the island—because if that were the case, smaller fish would have died too," it said.

Fr. Felino Bugauisan, assistant parish priest and spokesperson of the Rapu-Rapu-based Sagip Isla, said residents found the dead *dugong* between 5 and 6 a.m. on Wednesday, causing commotion in the normally sleepy town.

"This is the first time we found a dead *dugong* on our island," Bugauisan said in a phone interview.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources said initial reports revealed that the *dugong* was caught by a fisherman and brought to the island, but it was not clear whether the *dugong* was captured dead or alive.

Lafayette's P1.4-billion project caused two mine spills in Rapu-Rapu in October last year, spilling cyanide into nearby creeks that go out to the Pacific Ocean, a migratory path of marine mammals and other cetaceans.

The *dugong*, sometimes known as a sea cow, is an endangered mammal in the Philippines.

The Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau said it would send a team of veterinarians to conduct an autopsy of the *dugong* to determine the cause of its death, but Bugauisan said the *dugong* was buried Thursday.

He brought samples of the *dugong's* blood, flesh and intestine to the Ateneo de Manila University yesterday for tests.

The *dugong's* fetus was taken by Dave Duran, a councilor from Sorsogon involved in the care of whale sharks in the province, for possible study.

LMI said it would agree to an investigation by competent third parties to settle the issue, urging people not "put blame on the wrong parties."

Duran, chair of the Sorsogon Multipartite Monitoring Task Force, said the discovery of the dead *dugong* was unfortunate because it came at a time when his group was trying to calm down residents who suffered from a fish scare spurred by the cyanide spills.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region VII, Cebu City

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO RE-BID TRANSFER OF NFA STOCKS THRU VOYAGE CHARTER

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY, through its *Corporate Budget for 2006* intends to apply the sum of *One Million Nine Hundred Ninety Eight Thousand and Five Hundred Pesos (P1,998,500.00)* being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Transfer of NFA Stocks thru Voyage Charter of NFA Region 7. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The National Food Authority, Region VII, Cebu City is inviting all interested licensed operators of vessels/barges whether owned through Bareboat/Time/Voyage Charter to apply for eligibility and to bid under the Letter Agreement for Vessel/Barge Hire for the shipment of rice from Cebu City to various destinations as indicated below:

VOLUME SCHEDULED FOR SEA DISPERSAL

DESTINATION		Lot No.	Maximum Quantity/Lot (bags)	Freight Rate/bag	Approved Budget for the Contract per Lot
Province	Port				
Camotes Is.	Poro	1	77,000	20.50	1,578,500.00
BOHOL	Ubay	2	20,000	21.00	420,000.00
TOTAL			97,000		1,998,500.00

Delivery of the GOODS is required upon receipt of Notice to Proceed until December 31, 2006, or upon completion of the services, whichever is applicable.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights and privileges to Filipino Citizens pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB). The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY and inspect the Bidding Documents at *NFA, Banilad, Cebu City* starting January 28, to February 06, 2006 from 8.00 AM to 5:00 PM.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00)*. The method of payment will be in cash. The Bidding Documents shall be reviewed personally by the prospective Bidder or his duly authorized representative.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on *February 07, 2006 @ 10:00 AM* at *NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on *February 20, 2006 not later than 10:00 AM*. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in an amount at least equal to, and not lower than a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, in the following schedule and form or any combination thereof:

Form of Security	Minimum Amount in % of the ABC to be bid
Cash / Cashier's / Managers Check payable to NFA issued by a reputable commercial bank in Cebu City or	One Percent (1%)
Surety Bond issued by GSIS marked "Callable on Demand"	Two & a Half Percent (2.5%)

Bid opening shall be on *February 20, 2006 @ 10:00 AM at NFA Training Center, 3rd Flr., Banilad, Cebu City*. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend the bidding. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
PIOLITO C. SANTOS
Banilad, Cebu City
032-232-1932
email address: nfaro7@cvis.net.ph
032-233-6095
website: www.nfacebu.net.ph

(Sgd.) PIOLITO C. SANTOS
RBAC Chairman / ARD

(PDI - January 28 & February 4, 2006)

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INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Why Cebu City is a big Chinatown

By Gavin Sanson Bagares
Contributor

AS THE CHINESE LUNAR NEW YEAR WAXES more fully, Cebu City begins to sway to the rhythm of the Lion Dance.

But a visitor will wonder where its Chinatown is. Searching the surface, he will not find one, frustrating even the most perceptive traveler who sees all signs of Chinese presence yet finds no heart of a Chinatown.

Cebu, in truth, has had two Chinatowns. This is history, for the direct trade between southern Chinese ports and the island of Cebu existed since at least a century before the Spanish *conquista*.

It was the increased opportunities on the island's trade and commerce that brought Chinese settlers to its shores, especially at the onset of the Galleon Trade in which Cebu was involved from 1594 to 1604. The Galleon Trade fully realized the Chinaman's role as a middleman, a role whose potential for profit proved irresistible.

The Parian

The early Chinamen were called "*sangleyes*" by the Spaniards. Composed of 200 traders and artisans, they were herded to their own ghetto as Cebu ("La Ciudad de Santissimo Nombre de Jesus") took more solid shape as a Spanish city in 1594.

The ghetto was called the "Parian" and built just outside the Spanish *ciudad* like the one of Manila.

By 1596, the citizens of Parian, led by their *principales*, were baptized as Catholics, thus creating the Chino *cristianos*. By virtue of their new faith, they were more free than the "infidel" (unconverted Chinese) and could marry the natives.

The Chino *cristianos*, their wives (Bisayan, or Moluccan, according to one account, for there were no Chinese women in the Philippines then due to China's restriction to their travel), and mestizo offspring (the word *mestizo* originally referred only to the Chinese half-caste) were numerous enough that by Oct. 22, 1614, their own parish church, the Iglesia de San Juan Bautista, was erected.

Were it not for the notoriety of the Chinese as a perceived threat to national security, among other prejudices toward them, the Parian would have remained Cebu's Chinese enclave well into the 20th century. But many times, their expulsion from the Philippines was ordered.

Chinese complicity in the British Occupation of Manila (1762-64) made matters worse. The retaking of Manila by the Spaniards led to a long-drawn Chinese diaspora. Its aftermath, culture historian Michael Cullinane observes of late 18th-century Cebu, "resulted in the Parian becoming an almost exclusively Chinese mestizo community, nearly devoid of Chinese."

The Chinese *mestizos* soon lost fluency of Chinese, a fact some historians blame on the acculturation by their non-Chinese mothers. At the end of Spanish rule, they were a "hispanized" group, cultural hybrids that denied and repressed their Chinese legacy.

By legal fiction, Spanish law recognized them as distinct from the Chinese and they were accorded unique rights and privileges within the context of colonial bureaucracy. What "Chinese-ness" they might have lost did not, however, include the flair for commerce.

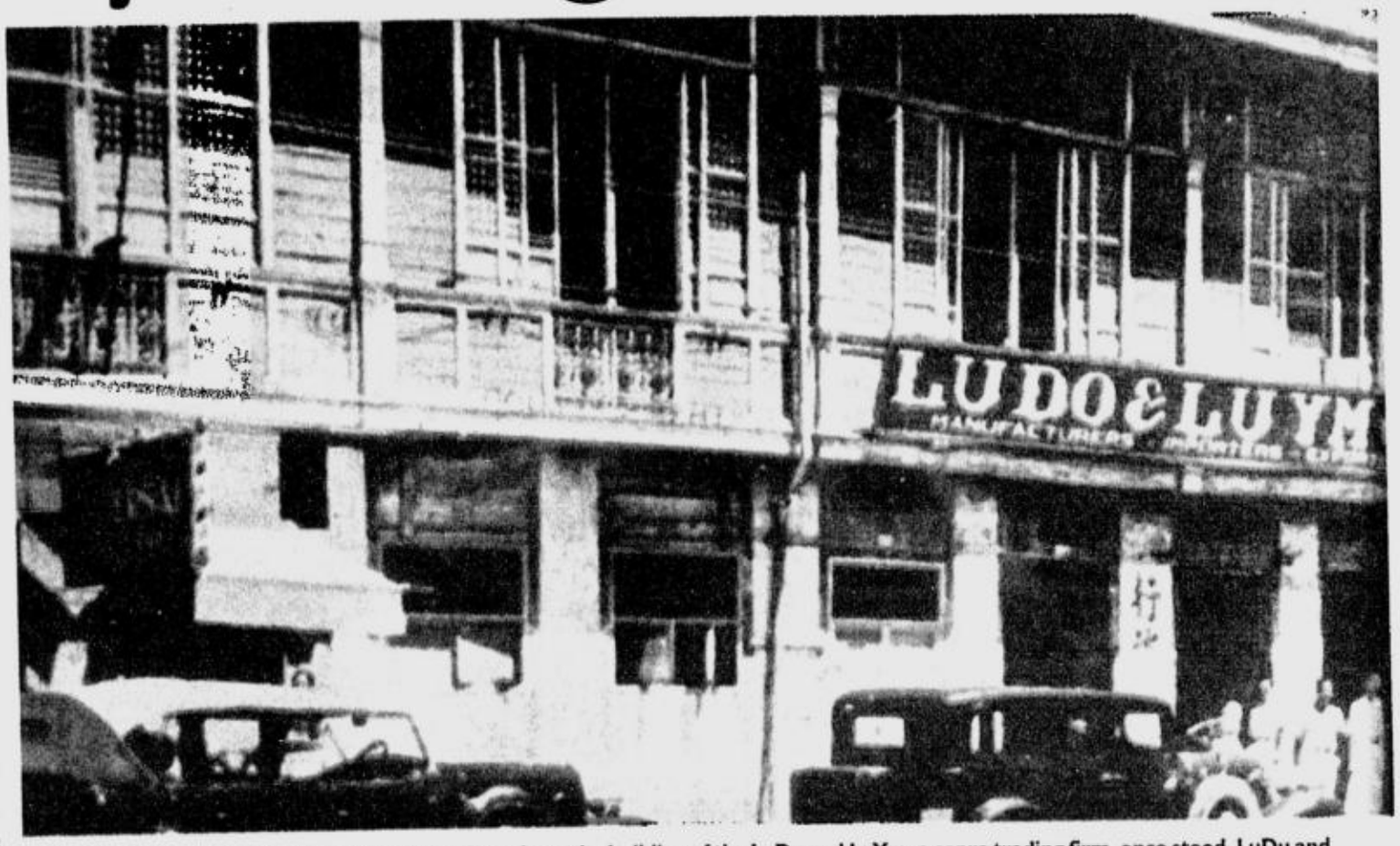
In the 19th century, they were clearly the most dominant force socially and economically, and their activities spread throughout the province and the region.

The Parian produced Cebu's first identifiable elite, according to Cullinane. These were the elite whose names still resound today: Osmeña, Velez, Cui and Veloso, among others.

When former Cebu governor Emilio "Lito" Osmeña said that "the whole of Cebu is a Chinatown" and that "there is no family in Cebu who does not have Chinese blood," he might well mean those of the Old Parian.

The Lutaos

The opening of the Cebu port to international trade in 1860 hastened the economic growth of the city. Foreigners came in increasing numbers, attracted by the prospect of brisk business. Foremost among them were the Chinese, but unlike the old days, they were no longer confined to the Parian for the *mestizos* held sway there by that time.



THE OLD Plaridel Street in downtown Cebu City where the building of the LuDu and LuYm, a copra trading firm, once stood. LuDu and LuYm is now a multimillion-peso international trading firm, producer of coconut-based products and owner of a 12-story building in downtown Cebu City.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Instead, the Chinese gravitated closer to where the new action was, the Lutaos area close to the port. Soon graced by a customs house, the port was equipped to accommodate big ships, unlike the estuaries that used to be the lifeblood of the Parian. These ancient *esteros* were giving themselves up to silt and were by now unnavigable.

Location abetted the rise of the new Chinese immigrants. Initially settled at the south side of the Fort San Pedro, they fanned out along the coast of the present-day M.C. Briones Street up to the Carbon public market (Ermita area), inland toward Magallanes, and into feeder roads like Plaridel.

This swathe of Lutaos-Ermita land became the new Chinatown. Unlike the Parian, it was not a planned development hewed to the divide-and-rule dictum of the Spaniards.

The Chinese population in Cebu reached a critical mass (stimulated as it was by friendlier laws and swifter transport modes) beginning in the 1880s that a separate tax ward was created for them, the Gremio de Chinos. The *gremio* or "tribute-paying corporations ... organized by ethnicity rather than by place of residence" might have been greatly instrumental in dispersing the Chinese throughout Cebu City. Wherever business took them, there they would be.

DON LUCIO Uy Herrera, Cebu's first Chinese Consul.

DON PEDRO Singson Go Tiaoco, the Chinese patriach from whom a number of today's "taipans" in Philippine business have descended: The Gokongweis of the hotel, airline, and publishing concern; the Gotianuys of the school and mall; and the Gaisanos of retailing.

It was in the Lutaos-Ermita Chinatown that Cebu saw the emergence of its most distinguished Chinese family, the Gos. Penniless immigrants late in the 19th century, they have parlayed their initial modest gains into a considerable fortune. Or several fortunes.

The scions of the Go patriarch, Don Pedro Singson Go Tiaoco, are some of today's taipans in Philippine business—the Gokongweis of the hotel, airline, and publishing concern; the Gotianuys of the school and mall; and the Gaisanos of retailing.

Postscript

Of Cebu as one big Chinatown, one can look at the Lutao-Ermita model for answers. The clue lies in its organic, unplanned development.

Cebu, then as now, was a magnet to the Chinese for the real and time-tested economic opportunities it presents.

In 1900, the American colonists drew plans to improve its port. By 1917, Cebu surpassed its long-time rival Iloilo as premier city of the South.

As the city grew, its Chinese population also burgeoned, spilling-over beyond the port area and encroaching into traditionally non-Chinese neighborhoods. They were to be found in all the major markets from Taboan to T. Padilla, or in tannery operations in the barrio of Mabolo.

Indeed, it was in the 20th century that Cebu itself became a Chinatown whose boundaries of ethnicity were blurred in the pursuit of business opportunities. The Chinese established their own schools, churches, cemeteries, hospitals, charitable foundations, and family associations.

They also formed their own chamber of commerce and a fire brigade to complete the proud display of their identity.

As the 21st century trudges in its infancy, one finds the Cebu Chinatown not in the nooks and crannies of half-forgotten places but in the big picture of a dynamic metropolis.

BCDA

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Republic of the Philippines

Construction of Concrete Overpasses in the Provinces of Bataan and Tarlac

The Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), through the BCDA 2006 Corporate Funds, intends to apply the corresponding sum listed hereunder being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening

Name of Project	Brief Description	Approved Budget for the Contract	Source of Funds
Construction of Concrete Overpasses	Construction of the following: Ligaya Overpass (Tarlac) Tinang Overpass (Tarlac) Pilabunan Overpass (Tarlac Sto. Overpass (Tarlac) Hacienda Luisita (Tarlac) San Ramon Overcrossing Bridge (Bataan) Mariveles Overcrossing Bridge (Bataan)	P146,000,000.00	Corporate Funds

BCDA now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Construction of Concrete Overpasses. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license of at least AAA, Large B , have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on **06-08 February 2006, 8:00am to 5:00pm**, at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00). Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents: **21 February 2006, 5:00PM** at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of RA 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City on or before **21 February 2006, 5:00PM**

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from BCDA and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. on 01 March 2006

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative on **01-03 March 2006, 8:00am to 5:00pm**

BCDA will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all Eligible Bidders on **07 March 2006, 10:00am.** at the BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City.

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before 10:00 am of 03 April 2006.

All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in any of the following form:

a. Cash, managers check, cashiers' check, irrevocable letter of credit, or bank draft – one percent (1%) of the Approved Budget for the Contract
b. Bank Guarantee – one and a half percent (1½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract
c. Surety Bond from a reputable insurance company accredited by the Insurance Commission – two and a half percent (2½ %) of the Approved Budget for the Contract

Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on **10:30am of 03 April 2006** at BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center, 31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below on **10:30am of 03 April 2006**

Completion of the Works is required by a total of One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days

BCDA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

BASES CONVERSION AND DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
GEN. NARCISO L. ABAYA (RET.) – President and CEO
BCDA Corporate Center, 2/F Bonifacio Technology Center
31st St. cor. 2nd Ave., Bonifacio Global City, Taguig City
Telephone Number (632) 816-6666 Telfax No. (632) 816-0996
Website: www.bcda.gov.ph

(Sgd.) VICTOR V. ZABLAN
Chairman – BAC for SCTEP

(PDI – Jan. 28 & Feb. 2, 2006)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Central Luzon Regional Office, Cabanatuan City
Tel. No. (044) 463-1167 & 483-1168 / Fax No. (044) 600-2693
Website: www.nfa.gov.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Repair/rehab. of NFA-Pampanga Provincial Office
Repair of the roofing and ceiling portions of the Bldg.

The **NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY-Central Luzon Regional Office (NFA-CLRO), Cabanatuan City** through its 2005 Corporate Operating Budget intends to apply the sum of Php 1,198,683.35 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Repair/rehab of Provincial Office at NFA-Compound, Sindalan, Pampanga. Completion of the Works is required by One Hundred Twenty (120) calendar days.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Repair/rehab. of Provincial Office. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least 50% of the ABC, and key personnel and equipment (listed in the Eligibility Forms) available for the execution of the contract. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs at the BAC Secretariat and secure the Eligibility Documents therefrom. Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.

All particulars relative to the Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference, Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The schedule of RBAC activities are as follows (Sat./Sun./Holidays excluded)

RBAC Activities	Date	Time
Issuance of Eligibility Forms	Feb. 01-08, 2006	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Deadline for Submission of Eligibility Forms & Requirements	February 15, 2006	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Issuance of Bid Documents	March 01, 2006	8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Pre-Bid Conference	March 15, 2006	10:00 a.m.
Submission and Opening of Bids	March 28, 2006	10.00 a.m.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address above and upon payment of a non refundable fee of Two Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php 2,500.00). The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the Bidder or his authorized representative.

Venue for the Pre-bidding Conference, Submission and Opening of Bids shall be at the NFA-CLRO, Conference Room, Maharlika Highway, Cabanatuan City.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

(Sgd.) RUBEN J. RESIDE
Asst. Regional Manager
RBAC Chairman

(PDI – January 28 & February 4, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. (632) 920-6401 • (632) 920-6446
E-mail: member_relations@sss.gov.ph • Web site http://www.sss.gov.ph

NOTICE

Please get in touch with the Members Assistance Center, Social Security System (SSS), East Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City or at any SSS office nearest your place of residence and file your death benefit claim within 90 days upon publication, if you are:

	NAME OF BENEFICIARIES	LAST KNOWN ADDRESS	NAME OF SSS MEMBER	DATE OF DEMISE
1)	Baby Antid	Unknown	Alfredo Antid SS#08-0408249-9	September 20, 2005
2)	Corazon Balbero	Dagat-dagatan, Navotas, M.M.	Paulino Balbero SS#03-3051263-7	June 16,2005
3)	Apple D. Cenllo	Unknown	Benjamin O. Cenllo SS#03-1105879-6	July 29, 2005
4)	Badria M. Datumanong	Campo Muslim, Lugay Lugay, Cotabato City	Cader A. Datumanong SS#09-0267697-2	June 18, 2004
5)	Lydia Ducalang	San Vicente, Malag-ob, Leyte	Jose Ducalang SS#03-2102256-3	November 10, 2005
6)	Renato A. Infante Mario A. Infante Marless A. Infante	Capaya II, Angeles City	Rodolfo P. Infante SS#03-6646663-4	September 8, 2005
7)	Maria Felicilda	Jasaan, Misamis Oriental	Amado Felicilda SS#08-0944116-1	July 15, 2005
8)	Erlinda Barade Hablero	General Santos City	Ronald B. Hablero SS#33-2538528-7	October 6, 2005
9)	Manuel Mabaga	Kalibo, Aklan	Efren Mabaga SS#07-2007635-6	October 10, 2005
10)	Dominador Castillo Rogelio Petro	186 Quirino Hi-way, Baesa, Quezon City	Marcelina Miranda SS#03-2691476-8	February 23, 2004
11)	Mauricia P. Pangan	296 Barcastique, San Miguel, Manila	Cayetano Y. Pangan SS#03-0409108-7	August 29, 2005
12)	Irene Gengon	92 G. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila	Rosalio Pelino SS#03-1609952-7	March 13, 2002
13)	Leonida Ragunton	Unknown	Alfredo Ragunton SS#03-7490611-5	August 26, 2004
14)	Phillip Belda	Unknown	Virginia B. Rodriguez SS#06-0586146-6	September 19, 2005
15)	Francisco Santos	Unknown	Edilran Santos SS#33-5672906-1	July 10, 2005
16)	Flora Salazar	Maladero, Tarlac City	Ignacio M. Serrano SS#02-0199508-2	April 24, 2005
17)	Bao Tan Nancy Tan Tiu	Unknown	Jose L. Tiu SS#03-1115051-3	May 7, 1999
18)	Sabino S. Mijares	Busuyan, Kabasalan, Zamboanga del Sur	Alfredo S. Torres SS#10-0002930-7	July 1, 2005
19)	Calixto Trono, Sr.	Cleofas Compd., Rd. 20, Proj. 8, Q.C.	Calixto L. Trono, Jr. SS#03-5572096-7	May 28, 2005
20)	Juliet Y. Vente	Tubod, Iligan City	Mario A. Vente SS#08-0399663-8	September 24, 2005
21)	Rosalinda	179 Libis B, Phase II Malonday Subd., Marikina	Alejandro R. Ybanez SS#33-0084224-0	September 23, 2005

Nothing Follows

(PDI – January 28, 2006)

EZ2: 6 30

SUERTRES: 6 1 7 (In exact order)

FOUR DIGIT: 9 4 6 2

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METRO

E-mail: pr_metro@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

MEGALOTTO 6/45: 10 12 14 18 32 44

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2 rich boys held for 'ecstasy' in Pasig

By Luige A. del Puerto

THE POLICE ARRESTED TWO scions of wealthy families caught allegedly selling hundreds of "ecstasy" tablets during an entrapment operation in Pasig City Thursday afternoon.

Seized from the pair were some 400 "ecstasy" tablets, valued at P750 each, from Francis Morales Braza, 20, of BF Homes, Mariposa Village, Parañaque City; and Marco Alberto Jacinto de la Rama, 24, of Valle Verde II, Pasig City.

"Ecstasy," also known as "flying saucer," "love doves," and "artist drug," is a synthetic amphetamine mostly used by people aged between 20 and 40 and distributed in high-end bars, disco pubs and posh condominiums. The drug is believed to be illegally brought in from the United States, Canada, Australia and Europe.

Thursday's haul was one of the biggest "ecstasy" seizures in recent years, according to Director Marcelo Ele, chief of the Anti-Illegal Drugs Special Operations Task Force. The first to be arrested was Braza, who allegedly sold 300 tablets to a policeman posing as a buyer at the Champagne Edition Condominium on St. Jose Maria Escriva Drive in Pasig City. De la Rama was caught nearby, police official added.

Ele said De la Rama was "the person who supplied" Braza the tablets. The suspect tried to escape but was subdued by task force agents, the police said, adding that the Mitsubishi Pajero De la Rama allegedly used yielded 100 ecstasy tablets.

The police believe the suspects belong to a well-financed drugs syndicate in Metro Manila. At least three other alleged members of the drug ring had been identified, but authorities refused to reveal their names.

Ele said the members belong to "affluent" families in exclusive subdivisions of the metro. A European national was believed to be the source of the drugs, he said.

Jinggoy is acting again

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

ONE OF THOSE WHO GRILLED CUSTOMS Commissioner Napoleon Morales during the Senate hearing on the national budget Tuesday was Sen. Jinggoy Estrada.

Estrada gave Morales the most severe scolding for the alleged rampant smuggling at the piers and the customs zones. Customs zones are bonded warehouses outside the piers.

I snickered and nearly fell off my chair when I saw Jinggoy playing to the gallery in that Senate hearing.

I recall that during his father's time, Jinggoy had then newly installed Customs Commissioner Ramon Farolan called to a meeting. Over lunch, he introduced to the incorruptible Farolan, a second-timer at the Bureau of Customs, the most notorious smugglers.

A few days later, the retired Air Force general resigned, citing health reasons although he was as strong as a bull.

The truth was Farolan didn't want Jinggoy, his brother Jude, then President Erap's "other" wife Guia Gomez, and other members of Erap's extended family pressuring him to go easy on smugglers.

When Farolan was gone, it was a "free-for-all" at the piers and the customs zones, courtesy of then San Juan Mayor Jinggoy Estrada and and his father, Air Force Capt. Jude.

Used clothes arrived by shiploads. So did luxury cars. In fact, Jude allegedly drove out of the pier one such car without a customs clearance. The car was unloaded straight from a cargo ship.

Jinggoy and Jude reportedly used Philip Lee and Jun Manimtim as their brokers.

In an intensive anti-smuggling campaign during Erap's time, then Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, head of Task Force Aduana, made a big catch.

A bonded warehouse owned by a Baby Tay was raided by "Aduana" agents. The agents seized a huge cargo of Ecstasy, a drug in the same category as—but much more damaging than—methamphetamine hydrochloride (shabu).

There was a big to-do over the drugs seizure. But Baby Tay was never prosecuted. And the Ecstasy tablets, which intensifies the sex urge of a user much like a cantaride, could not be accounted for later.

Guess who was behind Tay going scot-free and the seized Ecstasy tablets eventually ending up in the market?

So, when Jinggoy was pontificating at Tuesday's Senate hearing, people in the know chorused, "Amen."

* * *

A military "analyst" was quoted by the INQUIRER Thursday as saying Brig. Gen. Delfin Bangit's impending relief as chief of the Presidential Security Group was some form of punishment.

The supposed analyst, a former military officer, said Bangit's departure could have been prompted by Malacañang's paranoia.

That analyst was talking like a parrot.

Bangit is being given a field assignment because it's an upward career move, a promotion.

Many Army generals are retiring this year and Bangit is being groomed to command a division that is headed by a two-star general. Bangit has only one "star."

Right now, since there's no vacancy yet, Bangit has been appointed deputy commander of the Army's 2nd Division.

* * *

CORRECTION on my item on Jan. 21, Saturday, regarding the NorthRail-SouthRail linkage project: Squatters will not be relocated to the Philippine National Railways (PNR) property in Legazpi City. Relocation sites are in Muntinlupa and Cabuyao and Calauan in Laguna.

Let's hope these plans are no longer delayed by militant groups whose agenda and actions have little or nothing to do with the interest of the squatters.

No watchmen on the job

LAPSES IN SECURITY ENABLED A THIEF OR thieves to enter the Philippine Sports Commission building in Malate, Manila, and steal a digital camera worth P30,000 and a pair of Oakley Ducati sunglasses early yesterday morning, according to the National Bureau of Investigation.

Investigators said the thief may have entered the PSC at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex from 10 p.m. on Thursday to 6 a.m. yesterday. There were no watchmen on patrol in the area, probers said. *Margaux C. Ortiz*

PO2 JOJO Mayo and Arianne (pair on left), together with PO3 Jesette Garcia and Simon, joined 16 other couples at a mass wedding sponsored by the Philippine National Police yesterday. JOAN BONDOC

Never too late for these couples

By Luige A. del Puerto

SOME 25 YEARS AND SIX CHILdren later, a policeman and his partner legalized their relationship in a mass wedding at Camp Crame yesterday sponsored by top officials of the Philippine National Police.

"Now I feel complete," Senior Inspector Ludovico Dinalagan, 54, said after exchanging "I dos" with wife Asteria, 48. The Dinalagans were among 17 couples who took their wedding vows yesterday.

The couple's eldest daughter, Annalyn, was married before her parents took the plunge. She now has a two-year-old son. Annalyn first learned that her parents were not married when she was in high school.

The Dinalagans met in 1978, when they both worked for a printing press in Marikina City. Two years later, they were living under one roof. The couple became parents to four girls and two boys.

But Ludovico never got around to asking Asteria to marry him. "*Ayaw ko ring mamilit* (I did not want to press him)," Asteria said. Late last year, Ludovico decided it was time to get married because it was long overdue. "I thought it would be better if we got married before the eyes of God," he said. The brand-new wife said her husband probably also thought of complications that could arise when he retired. The chance came when Ludovico learned the Command Group, the police's highest policy-making body, was sponsoring a mass wedding on Monday, an annual event on the anniversary of the PNP. The police marks its 15th anniversary this year.

Ludovico must have thought it was a chance not to be missed particularly would not have to spend for the wedding and reception. They were paid for by the PNP. Of the 34 people who exchanged "I dos," six were policemen, two policewomen, a female non-uniformed personnel (NUP), and a male NUP. The wedding sponsors included Director General Arturo Lomibao and Deputy Director General Avelino Razon.

Killer of fellow policeman gets life term

By Jocelyn R. Uy

AFTER SIX YEARS, THE FAMILY OF slain police officer Jaime Magsino finally got justice yesterday, but it was less than what they expected.

"We felt the penalties were not enough," said former actress Marissa del Mar, sister of Magsino, of the Southern Police District's Intelligence Division who was killed in 1999 while conducting surveillance operations in Pasay City.

Charged with his murder were policemen SPO2 Romeo Isidro, PO3 Jesus Bongon Jr., PO1 Ricardo Eusebio and civilians Jojit Contreras, Boyet Parilla alias Remegio Almonte and Robert Sy.

Judge Pedro Gutierrez of the Pasay City Regional Trial Court Branch 119 meted Bongon a life sentence and ordered him to pay damages of more than P2.6 million to Magsino's heirs.

Eusebio, Isidro and Contreras got 14 years each as accomplices. Parilla and Sy remain at large.

METROBRIEFS

Work of vigilantes?

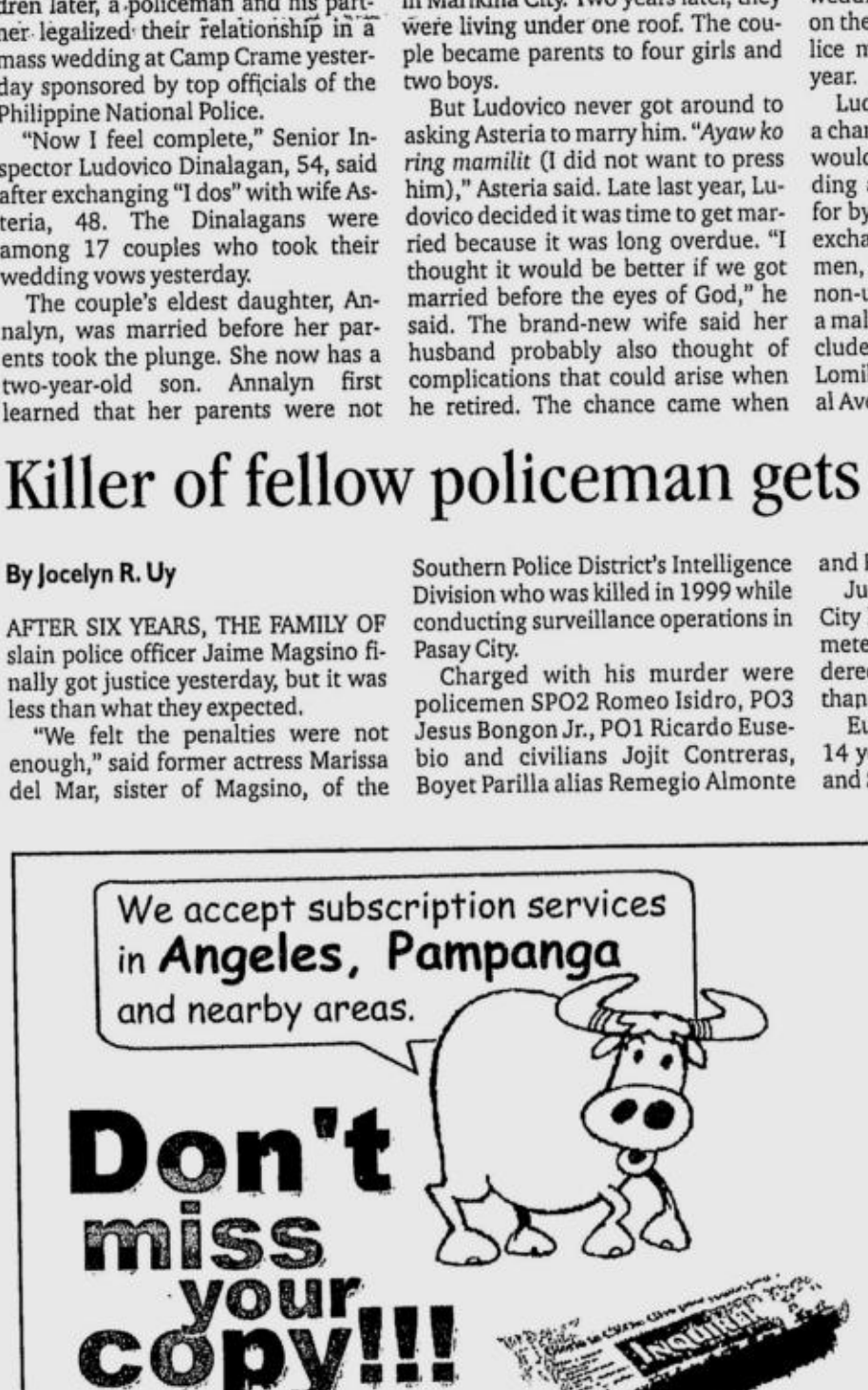
A GROUP calling itself "Vigilantes" dumped human body parts in at least four areas in Quezon City; leaving behind a bold warning to criminals: "You're next." Wrapped in black garbage bags, the body parts belonging to at least two persons turned up one after the other before dawn yesterday. The identities of the victims, one of whom was a woman, remained unknown at press time, as police authorities undertook the grisly task of piecing together the body parts. Quezon City Police District director Chief Supt. Nicasio Radovan, Jr., however, said it was too early to tell if there really was a group of vigilantes roaming the city. "For all we know, they only did that to their enemies and tried to cover it up by making it appear like it was the work of vigilantes," he said. If they were in fact vigilantes, then the city police would have to catch them, he added. The recovered body parts were turned over to the Prudential Funeral Homes. *DJ Yap*

Passports the easy way

CALOOCAN City residents who missed the local government's mobile passport program last year would have a second chance to get their travel documents without having to go to the Department of Foreign Affairs during the city's 44th founding anniversary on Feb. 4. City Mayor Enrico Echiverri said, some 500 residents with complete requirements and documents benefited from last year's mobile passport program. The program is conducted in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs and the City Civil Registry Department. Maricel Sy of the city's press information office said the number of residents who would avail of the mobile passport program is expected to increase because of the inclusion of other districts in the project. *Nancy C. Carvajal.*

St. Paul Manila homecoming tomorrow

ALUMNAE of St. Paul University Manila (formerly St. Paul College of Manila) will hold their homecoming tomorrow at the school grounds starting at 12 noon. Activities include photo exhibits mounted by April Son, High School Batch '81, entitled "Jubilarian Women of Substance," and old photographs of various jubilarians; a eucharistic celebration an international food festival; and the "Live the Life" raffle draw. The Grand Homecoming Show at 6:30 p.m. will feature show-stopping dances by the jubilarian classes. The show will also feature a tribute to Fr. James B. Reuter, SJ. This year's host is High School Batch 1981. Participants are requested to bring 2 ID photos for registration purposes. For more details, please contact the SPMAFI office at 5234259 or 5245687.



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*Promo extended until Feb. 14, 2006. Approved by DTI-NCR. Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 7211, Series of 2005.

LAKAS NG GLOBE

TENNIS: 2006 Australian Open; 10 a.m. (r- 4 p.m.); STAR Sports – Check out the women's singles and men's doubles finals from Melbourne.

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Compiled by L. Manguiat

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Z Gorres to Vegas on Feb. 3

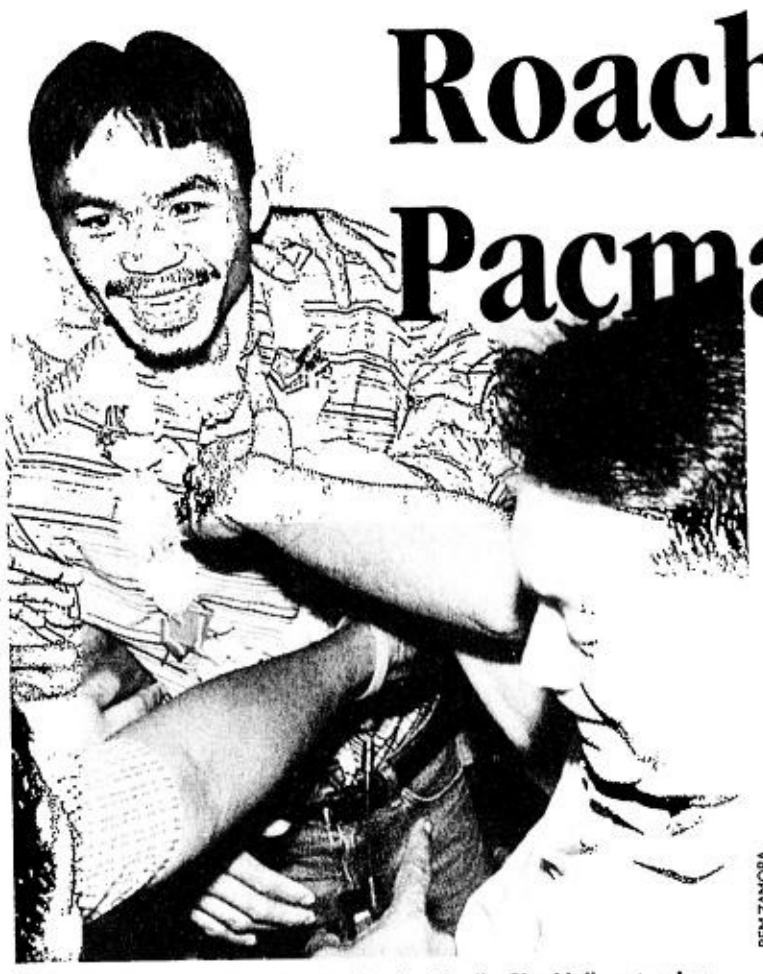
Z "THE DREAM" GORRES AND Czar Amonsot, who are currently training at the Wild Card Gym in Los Angeles, are slated to motor to Las Vegas on Sunday in preparation for their respective bouts on Feb. 3 at the Mardi Gras Ballroom of the Orleans Hotel.

The southpaw Gorres will take on Jose Alfredo Tirado in the 10-round main event of the Las Vegas card while Amonsot will clash against Antonio Wong in an 8-round scrap.

Yesterday, Gorres sparred with WBC No. 1 super flyweight Jose Navarro while Amonsot went up against Mike Franco at the Wild Card Gym.

Gorres is one of the sparmates of WBC junior flyweight champ Brian Viloria, who is defending his title on Feb. 18 at the Alladin Hotel against ex-world champ Jose Antonio Aguirre. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Roach names possible Pacman foes in Manila



REM ZAMORA

FANS mob Manny Pacquiao inside the Manila City Hall yesterday.

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORnia—Trainer Freddie Roach yesterday bared they were in the process of selecting an opponent for Manny Pacquiao in a projected fight in Manila.

"I'll see you soon, because I believe we will be fighting in Manila because HBO wants to come to Manila," Roach told the INQUIRER.

Sounding certain, Roach, appearing calm and refreshed in a pink T-shirt, said the Manila fight would be held outdoors and they hope to be in Manila "before the end of April, before the rainy season."

So who are the possible opponents?

"(Marco Antonio) Barrera, if he wants, but I don't think Barrera will go to Manila," Roach said.

He continued: "It should be somebody in the Top 10. Carlos Hernandez, he wants to fight Manny because he thinks he beat his brother (Bobby). (Oscar) Larios, he says he can beat Manny. Wayne McCollough, even Manuel Marquez, if he wants to come."

There had been hints of Pacquiao seeing action before his countrymen in his next fight, but Roach came short of confirming ongoing negotiations.

"Nothing definite yet, but a Manila fight for Manny makes the most sense," Roach explained.

Roach, who held a boxing clinic in his first visit to Manila in December 2004, took time out to thank the Filipino people.

"Thank you for all your support. Thank you Manny Pacquiao for listening to me and working hard. Manny Pacquiao is a dedicated athlete. I can just guide him one way. When the bell rings, it's Manny who does the fighting. We had a good game plan and everything worked out inside the ring."

To those aspiring to follow the footsteps of Pacquiao, Roach has a final advice: "Work hard and good things will happen."

Pacquiao not amazed at 'new self'

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA—HIS TRANSformation, from slugger to complete boxer, was phenomenal but Manny Pacquiao claimed there was nothing truly amazing behind the shift in his fighting style.

Short of swearing that a winner can't rest on his laurels, Pacquiao bared the main factor behind his triumph.

There should be a special strategy for each opponent, he said.

"*Kailangan bawat kalaban me stratehiya ka, kuha ka ng tamang istilo* (You prepare something extra special for every opponent, even change your style)" he told the INQUIRER before departing for Manila from outside the Vagabond Inn, his original quarters next to his training camp in the Hollywood area here.

In that same visit to the inn, Pacquiao, who stayed in the Palazzo Apartments while here, re-entered Room 120, his quarters in his earlier fights in the USA, where he longingly lay down on his old bed.

What has baffled experts, including American boxing scholars, was the totally new arsenal displayed by Pacquiao in his scintillating conquest of Erik Morales, the seasoned Mexican ring maestro who beat the RP sensation in their first fight last year.

From an uptight, one-track slugger, an easy target for simple jabs, Pacquiao has metamorphosed into a shifty, weaving, multi-dimensional hit man who now selects his shots.

The great change has amazed experts, with some swearing they had never seen such fantastic shift in a boxer during their lifetime.

Once a slugger, always a slugger, they attested.

Majority of fight fans back home had insisted that all Pacquiao had to do in his rematch against Morales was avoid being cut again, and victory would be in the bag.

Pacquiao however disagreed and bared they had to work very hard, real hard. He made great sacrifices, stayed super fit while repeating special drills for weeks on end.

They had erred in taking Morales lightly in the first fight, and made sure there's won't be a repeat of the monumental blunder.

"We took the jab away from him," Pacquiao trainer Freddie Roach had said.

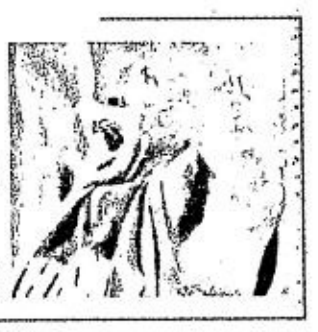
Add to that the revised artillery—left hook, uppercut, right hook, body shots—and what comes is a whirlwind of a fighter inside the boxing ring.

"Tell them I'm the storm across the Pacific," Pacquiao said before driving away in his gray $60,000 Porsche SUV to return to his apartment and prepare for his historic return to the Philippines.

WHAT'S INSIDE

■ Rain or Shine, Magnolia eye finals /A21

■ Suns torch Heat; Magic fan streak /A22



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Feb 15 LEGAL ASPECT OF SALE, MORTGAGE & LEASE WITH CONTRACT DOCUMENTATION AND REGISTRATION
Feb 20 JOINT VENTURES FOR REAL ESTATE PROJECTS
Feb 22 TAXATION ASPECTS OF REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS AND PROPERTY ASSESSMENT
Feb 27 REAL ESTATE FINANCE AND INVESTMENT ANALYSIS
Mar 1 MANAGEMENT OF RENTAL PROPERTIES
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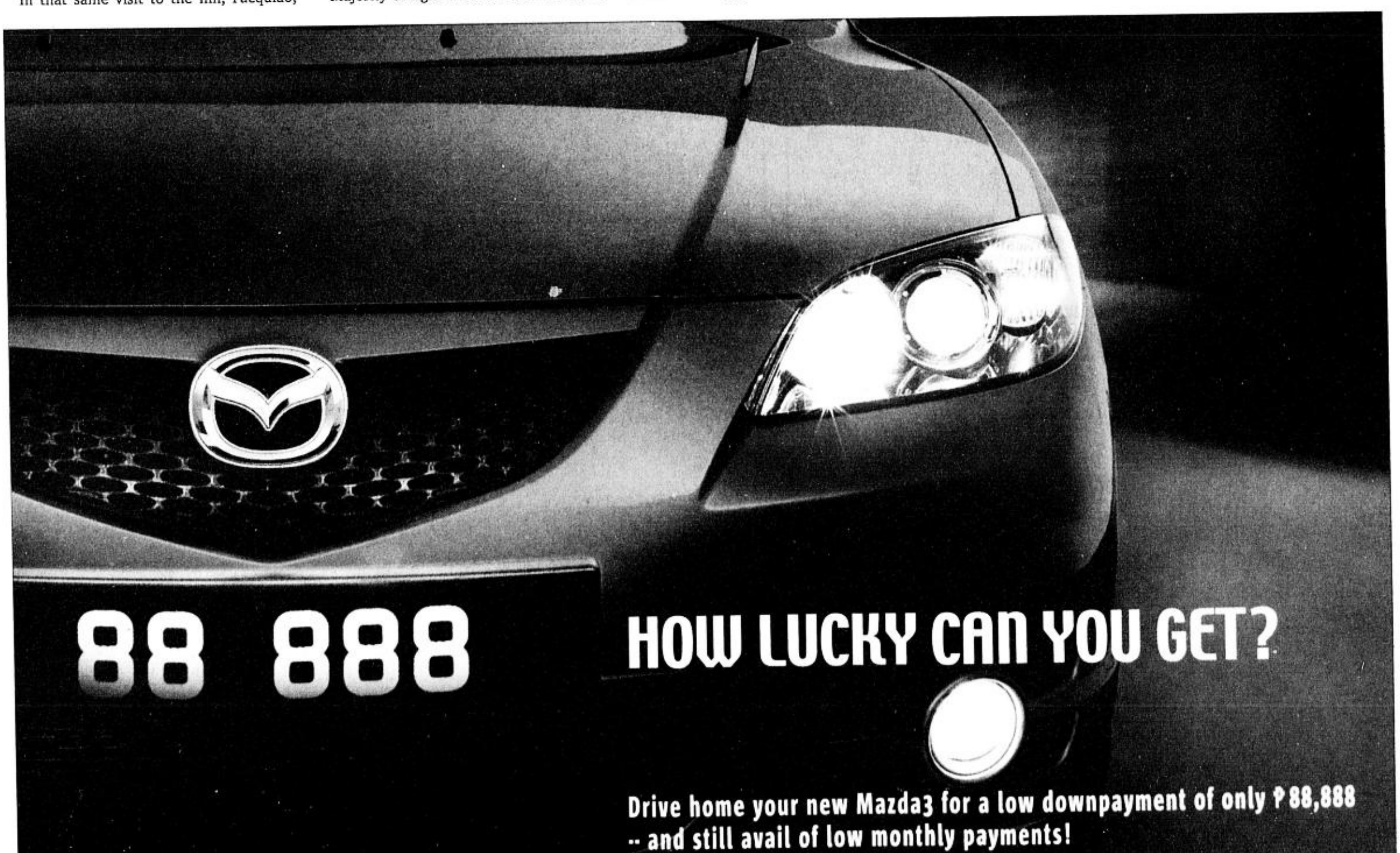

Butch M, Bert C need help

IN HUDDLE

Beth Celis

IT WAS THE FIRST TIME IN MANY years that I had sat down face to face with actor/jazz artist Richard Merk (he had dropped the 'c'), who was once a big fan of the PBA.

Broadcaster Ed Picson had arranged the meeting at Packo's in Quezon City. He and Richard were planning to stage a fund-raising concert for the PBL's Butch Maniego who is on thrice-weekly dialysis and needs a kidney transplant ASAP.

The first fund-raising affair held last December did not generate enough revenue to cover the projected medical expenses and Ed took it upon himself to try again.

The first event was a basketball game. This time it would be a concert at Merk's Bar and Bistro in Greenbelt owned by Richard.

Richard said he would invite showbiz talents—especially those who like basketball—to perform for free. Fund-raising events are a regular activity at his bistro, according to him. His latest fund-raiser was for Mowelfund, he said.

For my part and Ed's, we were tasked to scout for talents from the PBA and PBL who could contribute to the program.

Offhand, I recommended a dance number from Johnny Abarrientos—assuming he agrees—and maybe also from Renren Ritualo. Nothing Latino for the latter though.

(Incidentally, I think it was smart of Renren to quit ABC-5's "Shall We Dance?" contest while he was ahead. He's better off concentrating on his basketball career.)

* * *

The concert was tentatively set for March 6. However, I learned from colleagues yesterday that there was another member of the sportswriting fraternity who needed help badly and immediately.

Manila Standard editor Bert Cuevas, another diabetic, was still recovering from a previous operation when he was recently found to be suffering from another complication. Bert has been unable to report for work since the surgery last year, exhausting his sick leave and vacation leave benefits.

"We have to help him," said an editor close to Bert, one of the nicest guys hereabouts.

I presented the situation to Ed and Richard, who responded immediately. The 3 D's (Diabetics) should be meeting soon to move the concert schedule forward.

* * *

I've been trying to recall the two words uttered by BAP president Joey Lina which, he said, would serve as the pathway for the reinstatement of the NSA in the POC.

Gosh, I just couldn't remember the very exact words. I wrote it down somewhere, but I just couldn't find my notes either. The two words are very revealing, if I could only remember them or find my notes.

Those two words should give us a clear idea on the direction Joey and the basketball stakeholders are taking.

* * *

Got this note from Libre sports editor Dennis Eroa:

Sarah Sagun, victim of a shooting incident inside a Victory Liner last December, will forever be in gratitude to those who didn't think twice in sharing their blessings with her: Sen. Dick Gordon (former Olongapo mayor), anti-piracy chief Edu Manzano, People's Journal scribe Gerry Ramos, Leo Soliman, Trina Ebarle, nurse Perla Pangilinan, a lawyer named Jess, a certain Mel, the doctors and staff of Gordon Memorial Hospital and many others who heeded the call. A widowed mother of three, Sagun of Boto-lan, Zambales, is on the way to recovery.

* * *

Friends and relatives of Architect Gerry Reyes who perished with his wife and young daughter during the tsunami onslaught in Phuket, Thailand, last year, are invited to attend a memorial in his honor at the Christ the King Seminary Villa Cristo Rey along E. Rodriguez Blvd. in Quezon City on Sunday, Jan. 29 at 4 p.m.

Ritualo sizzles as Air21 stops Purefoods five

ANTIPOLO CITY—After a stinging Game 2 defeat, Air21 coach Bo Perasol had a little chat with Renren Ritualo and told him to get a little bit more involved in the Express offense the next time around.

The former La Salle hotshot gladly obliged.

Ritualo highlighted a career-high night with five triples bunched in an eight-minute span bridging the middle quarters as Air21 stayed alive by scorching Purefoods, 101-87, last night in Game 3 of their semifinal face-off in the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Ynares Center.

Ritualo finished with a career-high 40 points, making nine of his 18 attempts from beyond the arc, as the Express, who stared at a hope-quashing 0-2 deficit going into Game 3, suddenly emerged ready for the equalizer in their race-to-three affair in tomorrow's Game 4.

"Renren almost single-handedly won this for us," said Perasol after revealing his little talk with the sweet-shooting guard.

Ritualo knocked in two triples on fastbreak plays and scored eight straight points late in the third period as the Express took an 84-56 advantage, 2:43 before the final period. Prior to last night's explosion, Ritualo averaged just 12.5 points in the semifinals.

But it was clear early on that the 6-foot-1 sharpshooter was about to adjust those numbers. Purefoods had just launched a rally from 11 points down, moving to within four, 38-34, with a little over five minutes before the break on a run built around a rare triple from Paul Artadi.

Ritualo cooled that comeback, knocking in four straight triples that helped Air21 to a a 51-40 edge. The Express went into the break with a 56-46 edge, matching the margin they had at that stage in Game 2 before going on to lose.

This time, the Express were unforgiving with Ritualo knocking in his fifth triple of the night over the outstretched arms of Purefoods import Marquin Chandler to give the Express a 64-46 lead, early in the third quarter. *Francis Ochoa*

The scores:

First Game

AIR21 101—Ritualo 40, Daniels 16, Arboleda 15, R. De Ocampo 11, Canaleta 7, Ferriols 3, Dacia 2, David 2, Tubid 2, Y. De Ocampo 2, Se 1, Gonzales 0, Fran 0.

PUREFOODS 87—Chandler 23, Yap 16, Pingris 14, Raymundo 9, Salvador 4, Limpot 4, Artadi 3, Simon 3, R. Yap 3, Billones 2, Castillo 2.

Quarters: 31-24, 56-46, 88-61, 101-87

Que shoots 71 in Qatar Masters golf

DOHA—ANGELO QUE SHOT A ONE-UNDER-par 71 while Frankie Miñoza had a 74 at the start of the $2 million Qatar Masters at the Doha Golf Club Thursday.

Sweden's Henrik Stenson and Argentina's Ricardo Gonzalez shared the first-round lead with identical 66s.

World No. 5 Ernie Els, the defending champion from South Africa, also opened with a 71 but world No. 2 Vijay Singh of Fiji struggled with a 73.

The Sharjah-based Stenson produced another good display on Friday with a 68 to take a two-shot lead over England's Nick Dougherty (69-67—136) to put himself in contention for his first title in the Gulf.

The 29-year-old Stenson has played the bridesmaid role to perfection on the European Tour's middle-east leg, finishing second to Els in Qatar last year and again ending up as runner-up at the inaugural Abu Dhabi Golf Championship on Sunday.

Thai Thongchai Jaidee and Ireland's Peter Lawrie aced the par three 215 yard third. *AFP*

Drag racing today

MORE THAN 60 CARS are lined up for the various titles at stake today in the third leg of the 2005 Red Horse-PCSO National Drag Racing Championship Series at the BRC Drag Strip in Rosario, Batangas. Competing drivers will be disputing titles in the Quick 8, the Pro class (for cars 13.99 seconds and faster), Sportsman Class (14 seconds to 15.99) and the Hot Street division (16 seconds and slower) in this event sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines (AAP). Another highlight of the event is the Thunder Class for model cars manufactured 1983 and earlier. Focus will be on Sonny de Torres of Group N-Matonetics Racing. Aside from facing Sheldon Chua and Walter Pazon of Blanche Racing, De Torres will have to face Cebuano ace David Lim. Contact BRC manager Sherwin Mojica or Nelson Gayola at (632) 817-2241, 729-5365 or fax 815-1241. The event is sponsored by Red Horse, PCSO, Petron, Sparco and supported by Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Denso Spark Plugs, Casino Filipino, GV 99.9 FM and DaBest98.5 FM.

DBP Development Bank of the Philippines

INVITATION TO BID

The Development Bank of the Philippines will receive sealed bids on February 8, 2:00 p.m., 12th Floor, Suite 5, of the DBP Head Office, Sen. Gil Puyat Ave. cor. Makati Ave., Makati City for the following properties on CASH BASIS.

CODE NO.	DESCRIPTION	AREA (SQ. M.)	LOCATION	Floor Price
REAL ESTATE				
METRO MANILA				
CWB-28-D	Residential lot (TCT-N-282188)	300	Lot 27, Block 122 Villa Viena, Neopolitan Phase 1, Pasong Putik, Novaliches, QC.	P 1,470,000.00
CWB-14	Comm'l/residential lot (TCT No. 428042) w/ bldg	199	Corner of # 280 A. Bonifacio Avenue (National Road) and A. Flores St., Jesus dela Pena, Marikina City	P 4,101,800.00
PF-001	Residential lot (TCT No. 15884) w/ bldg & imp.	110	78-F Arandia, Brgy. Bagbagan, Muntinlupa City	P 742,900.00
AM-CP-001	Industrial lot (TCT No. M-21827) w/ bldgs	2,380	100 Industry Road II corner Reparo Road, Araneta University Village (now Potrero), Malabon City	P 20,000,000.00
AM-JA-002	Two adjoining residential lots (TCT Nos. 164323 & 164324) w/ bldg.	787	Corner R. Tirona and T. Teodoro Street, B.F. Homes, Parañaque City.	P 6,500,000.00
BATAAN				
CWB-10	Adjoining residential/ commercial lots (TCT No. T-208130 & T-208131) w/ bldg & imp.	6,807	Roman Superhighway at Municipal boundary of Hermosa & Orani	P 5,057,980.00
BULACAN				
CWB-28-B	Two adjoining residential lots: TCT-T-422072(M) & 422073(M)	300	Lot 35 & 33 blk 3 Carnation St., Graceville Subd., Bo Caretas, San Jose Del Monte	P 420,000.00
CWB-28-C	Two adjoining agro-residential lots with bldgs & improvements Lot No 21-C-2-A (TCT - T 422070 (M) Lot No. 1 (TCT 422071 (M)	19,000	Bo. Bulac, Sta. Maria	P 4,943,200.00
CSP-03	Residential/Comml lot (TCT-T-41100 (M)	632	Bo. Pulong Yantok, Angat	P 1,074,400.00
CAVITE				
CWB-28-A	Residential lot (TCT-T49242)	300	Session Road, Tagaytay Monte Vista Subd., brgy Sangay, Tagaytay City.	P 1,530,000.00
AM-FD-003	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-1123239) w/ bldg	43	Lot 33, Blk 23-B Alley 11, Regal Homes Brgy. Alapan 1, Imus	P 223,800.00
AM-FD-004	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-1129119) w/ bldg	68	Lot 25, Blk 10, Regal Homes, Brgy, Alapan I, Imus	P 391,900.00
LAGUNA				
AM-PI-005	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-616398) w/ bldg	40	St. Joseph Village 6, Phase I, Bgy. Butong, Cabuyao	P 266,000.00
AM-PI-006	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-616400) w / bldg	40	St. Joseph Village 6, Phase I, Bgy. Butong, Cabuyao	P 203,300.00
AM-CB-007	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-627972) w/ bldg	40	Lot 64, Blk 6, St. Joseph Village Butong, Cabuyao	P 207,400.00
AM-CB-008	Residential Lot (TCT No. T-627974) w/ bldg	40	Lot 18, Blk. 5, St. Joseph Village, Butong, Cabuyao	P 210,900.00
NUEVA ECIJA				
AM-CP-009	Agro-residential lot (TCT No. NT-58931)	171,126	Brgy. Cadaclan, Pantabangan	P 2,650,000.00
CWB-2	Residential lot (TCT-NT-28689) w/ bldg	1,000	Jaen-Zaragoza Road	P 290,400.00
RIZAL				
CWB-1	Commercial lot (TCT No. 428788) w/ bldg. & imp.	95	#547 Gen. Luna St., Brgy. Guinayang, San Mateo	P 1,027,100.00
PF-011	Residential lot (TCT No. 32501) w/ bldg.	128	L 14 B8 Durian St., Valley View Executive Village, Mayamot, Antipolo	P 523,300.00
cwb-11	Partly developed Industrial lot (TCT -392778) w/ bldg	3.9 ha	Sitio Putting Bato, Barangay San Luis, Antipolo City	P 13,466,500.00
CHATTELS				
CWB-3	PRINTING MACHINE & EQUIPMENT Stored at 22 col Divinio corner Karen Sts., Paliparan Subd., Sto. Nino, Marikina City: One (1) unit Offset Printing Machine, AKIYAMA, Model SA-2- 38, SN-47159			P 787,500.00
	One (1) unit Offset Printing Machine, MILLER, Model TP32, Machine No.GI9502			P 600,000.00
	One (1) unit Offset Printing Machine, HARRIS, Model Aurelia 2252, SN5139			P 625,000.00
	One (1) unit Offset Printing Machine, HEIDELBERG CORD, SN-500897			P 100,000.00
	One (1) unit Webfeed Offset Printing Machine, HAMADA CHANDLER-24, SN-325-S			P 2,000,000.00
CWB-11-D	One (1) unit Power Press, SUZUKI, 200 tons capacity located at Sitio Putting Bato, Barangay San Luis, Antipolo City.			P 350,000.00
AM-DE-010	Three (3) Units passenger buses, Hino Model, 67 seater, 6 wheeler, w/o engine, transmission & axle (not operational) located at Gem Village, Maa, Davao City			
	Bus NO 5516, Chassis No RK-3HRS-10032			P 53,400.00
	Bus NO. 5518, Chassis No. RK-3HRS-10034			P 53,400.00
	Bus NO 5517, Chassis No RK-3HRS-10033			P 53,400.00
	One passenger bus, 53-seater,GI sheet body, unfinished inner wall, no back wall, w/ Izusu engine w/ no 6BFI-133872, chasses No. SPMM-58973-92-C			P 41,600.00
AM-RT-011	Various Machinery & Equipment for molding & fabrication located at No.-599 Boarder Road Ext., Cordero Subdivision Bo. Lambakin, Marilao, Bulacan			P 330,700.00
AM-JA-012	One (1) unit CNC Turret Punch Press, "AMADA" w/ 20 kw elec. Motor & accessories located at 2337 Dalaga St., Gagalangin, Tondo, Manila			P 5,250,000.00
AM-ED-013	Various Sewing Machine Equipment located at No 762 San Ignacio St. Plainview, Mandaluyong City			P 86,600.00

BIDDERS ARE REMINDED:

1. To inspect the properties to determine their actual condition before the bidding;
2. To submit in DBP's official bid form available at the AMD-Acquired Assets, Ground Floor, DBP Head Office during office hours, and
3. To be on time. No bids will be accepted once unsealing of the bids commences. The sale shall be subject to other terms and conditions which may be imposed by the Bank.

DBP RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, TO WAIVE ANY FORMALITY THEREIN, OR TO ACCEPT SUCH BIDS AS MAY BE CONSIDERED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE BANK. THE DECISION OF THE BANK IS FINAL AND BINDING

For inquiries, please call telephone numbers 892-1566/893-7172 or 818-9511 local 2158/2159 for Code starting with AM, local 2715 for PF and 920-49-09 for cwb.

ASSET MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT

(PDI–January 27 & 28, 2006)

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
SUGAR REGULATORY ADMINISTRATION
North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
P.O. Box 70, U.P. Diliman, Quezon City
TIN 000-784-336-000

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Sugar Regulatory Administration (SRA) through its Bidding and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply of:

CONTRACT FOR JANITORIAL SERVICES
C.Y. 2006-2007
Approved Budget for the Contract – Php 2,300,000.00

Schedule of Bidding Activities

Issuance of Eligibility & Bidding Documents	January 24 – February 7, 2006 7:30 AM – 4:30 P.M. SRA Bidding Secretariat 3rd Floor Annex Building Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City for a non-refundable fee of Php 2,000.00
Pre-Bid Conference	February 14, 2006, 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City
Submission & Opening of Eligibility & Bid Envelopes	February 28, 2006 9:00 A.M. Training Room, Sugar Regulatory Administration North Avenue, Diliman, Quezon City

For particulars, please contact:
The Bidding Secretariat – Telephone No. 929-68-37

All particulars relative to the Eligibility, Bid Bond, Pre-bid Conference, Bid Evaluation and Award of Contracts shall be governed by the provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulations and other applicable government rules and regulations.

The SRA assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expense incurred in the preparation of the bids.

The SRA reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or informality therein or accept any bid(s) or offer(s) which it may consider to be advantageous and beneficial to the government.

(Sgd.) JAMES C. LEDESMA
Administrator

(PDI – January 21 & 28, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
Region XIV, Cotabato City
Tel No. 064-421-2407 / Fax No.064-421-21-28
Nfa14orc@yahoo.com

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The National Food Authority, Regional Office XIV, through the Grains Operating Fund intends to apply the sum of Five million five hundred thirty eight thousand seven hundred twenty-six pesos and 50/100 (Php 5, 538,726.50) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the Contract for the Procurement of Handling Services of estimated three million five hundred twenty one thousand five hundred twenty five (3,521,525) bags of grains in the following NFA owned and leased warehouses:

Lot No.	Location	Estimated Volume to to be Handled (In bags 50 kg)	Estimated ABC (In PhP)
1	GID Maganoy	323,146	P 484,719.00
2	R & B	119,120	178,680.00
3	RPA 1	448,778	673,167.00
4	RPA 2	106,070	159,105.00
5	RPA 3	170,784	256,176.00
6	RPA 4	81,582	122,373.00
7	Philtrade V	566,478	1,132,956.00
8	C I C	63,418	95,127.00
9	SPGC – GID	292,349	438,523.50
10	GID Marawi	424,150	636,225.00
11	Malabang	94,050	160,762.50
12	GID Basilan	618,000	927,000.00
13	GID Sulu	107,200	134,000.00
14	GID Tawi	106,400	159,600.00
	Total	3,521,525	P 5,558,414

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (RA 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in the Republic Act 5183 (RA 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES

PARTICULAR	DATE/TIME/VENUE
Distribution/Issuance of Bid Forms	January 23 to February 2, 2006 @ 5:00 PM / NFA XIV, ORC, Cotabato City
Deadline on submission of Letter of Intent	February 3-10, 2006 @ 3:00 PM / NFA, Region XIV, ORC Compound, Cotabato City
Pre-Bidding Conference	February 13, 2006 @ 9:00 AM / NFA RO XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City
Deadline for the submission of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	March 6, 2006 / @ 9:00 AM / NFA XIV Cotabato City
Opening of Eligibility Requirements and Bid Tender Forms	March 6, 2006 @ 9:10 AM / NFA XIV Conference Room, Cotabato City

A complete sets of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the BAC XIV Secretariat upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of One thousand five hundred pesos (Php 1,500.00) from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM beginning January 20, 2006. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

All bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the amount and form as enumerated under Section 27.2 of IRR-A. Late bids shall not be accepted.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Provincial Manager/BAC XIV Vice Chairman Mr. Kitem P. Kadatuan or Supervising Enforcement and Investigation Officer/BAC XIV Member Mr. Nelson P. Sañada.

The NFA reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY REGIONAL OFFICE XIV
Assi Regional Director Olelia M. Sero, ORC Complex, Cotabato City
(064) 421-24-07, Fax (064) 421-21-28 • Nfa14orc@yahoo.com

(Sgd.) OFELIA M. SERO
BAC Chairman

(PDI – January 21 & 28, 2006)

Rain or Shine, Magnolia gun for final seats

AFTER WINNING BY the slimmest of margins in the opener, Magnolia Ice Cream and Rain or Shine will try to wrap up in more convincing fashion their respective semifinal series in the PBL Heroes Cup today.

GAMES TODAY
(San Andres Gym)
2 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Magnolia
4 p.m.—Harbour Centre vs Rain or Shine

Magnolia will shoot for a championship berth against Granny Goose at 2 p.m., while Rain or Shine will likewise aim for a finals slot in its 4 p.m. duel versus Harbour Centre at the San Andres Gym.

"In the end, it was the breaks of the game that helped us so we can't be satisfied with our win," said coach Caloy Garcia after the Elasto Painters edged the Portmasters, 69-67, last Thursday.

The Ice Cream Wizards had a tougher time, slipping past the Tortillos only after an exhausting 98-97 double-overtime win.

"Granny Goose is one team that has a lot of energy," said Wizards coach Koy Banal. "In the first quarter alone, they gained 11 turnover points because of their pressure defense. They also made seven fastbreak points. We didn't do good in stopping their fastbreaks."

Rain or Shine and Magnolia hold a 2-0 edge in the best-of-five series as they went into the semis with a one-game bonus given to the top two performers in the elimination round.

Thus, Harbour Centre and Granny Goose must win three in a row to clinch a finals berth.

The Wizards leaned on the end-game heroics of RJ Rizada, who scored the game-winning basket aside from delivering the game-tying shots in regulation and in the first extra period.

Banal also felt relieved that the Wizards snapped out of their three-game slump.

"Finally we got out of the situation," he said. "We're still rusty, but these guys have the heart to keep on fighting."

Marvin Ortiguerra shot 15 points for the Painters, who started out strong in Game 1 but sputtered in the final quarter.

But the Portmasters failed to seize the opportunity, so coach Jorge Gallent will make sure his wards won't fall short this time.

"We just have to work harder especially in the paint," noted Gallent. "We were outrebounded the last time."

While the Portmasters' faded in their rally, the Tortillos blew a 17-point lead in regulation. *Jasmine W. Payo*

Additional PSC funds from lotto draws

THE PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION (PSC) is entitled to a share of the income from lotto draws of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

PSC commissioner Ambrosio de Luna announced this yesterday following a favorable Department of Justice (DOJ) legal opinion which the PSC sought to augment the agency's budget.

The sports agency is already entitled to a 30 percent share from the PCSO earnings from the proceeds of six sweepstakes draws or lottery draws per annum and taxes on horse racing during special holidays.

De Luna, however, did not disclose the amount the PSC should get from the lotto draws during yesterday's Scoop weekly session at the Kamayan Restaurant in Padre Faura.

The PSC has been allocated only a measly P28 million budget under the General Appropriations Act and is thinking of reducing its work force if its appeal to Congress for reconsideration is turned down.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0257 Series of 2006

Ramirez ready to quit if DOH takes over PSC

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PHILIPPINE SPORTS COMMISSION CHAIR Butch Ramirez yesterday said he is willing to step down if the Department of Health gains full authority over the PSC operations as mandated by an Executive Order issued last year.

Ramirez said he and his board are ready to fight it out for the status quo in the face of the impending implementation of the EO 441 which could eventually put the sports agency directly under the auspices of the DOH.

The PSC chief, who has gained allies in several national sports associations, maintained that the PSC's operation, which is focused on drafting the course of sports development, can't work under a department dealing health issues.

Yet, Ramirez said he is willing to work with the DOH in as far as the health and fitness of the national athletes are concerned, an item specifically mentioned in the EO signed by President Arroyo last July 27.

The PSC, he said, has its own set of commissioners who tackle concerns of its partners namely the 40-plus NSAs and the Philippine Olympic Committee, and can't be under one umbrella body.

NSAs presidents, from swimming's Mark Joseph to bowling's Steve Hontiveros, said the DOH must focus on taking care of the health of millions of sick Filipinos and not dip its fingers on sports issues.

SPORTSWATCH

Checkmate chess clinics

THE FIRST series of 2006 Milo Checkmate Saturday-only chess clinics in St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong and St. Andrews School in Parañaque begins today from 2-5 p.m. Other classes are being held at J&F Divino Bldg., 967 Aurora Blvd. near LRT 2 Anonas Stn., in Quezon City (9 a.m.-1 p.m.) and at Rizal Memorial Sports Complex, Vito Cruz, Manila—9 a.m.-noon at the Badminton Bldg. Open to kids who are five years old and above, enrollees can register at the venue or call 826-8560 and 0916-852-1069.

ACCA 4th Saturday tilt

THE ACCA 4th Saturday tournament gets underway today at the 4th Floor Pearl Plaza Mall, Parañaque City. Open to all lady players and executives with NCFP rating below 2001, the event will be held monthly at 1 p.m. Meanwhile, the non-master under 2050 tournament and the students under 14 years old tourney will be held tomorrow 1 p.m. at the same venue. For confirmation of participation, text 0920-923-1150 or 0918-696-6581. The event is organized by the Active Chess Center of Asia Inc. in cooperation with Pearl Plaza Mall. For details, contact National Master Robert Suelo Jr. or Ricky Navalta through the numbers above.

Makati 3-cock derby

COCKFIGHT aficionados of Metro Manila can expect more than 50 exciting fights in a 3-cock derby on Monday at the Makati Coliseum. Sponsor is B-Meg Derby Ace Premium Formula. A guaranteed prize of P200,000 is up for grabs, with an entry fee of P5,500. The derby will be hosted by WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. Paying patrons can get their tickets on Monday at a discounted price of P300, said promoters Lito Orillaza, Rudy Salud and William Co. Meanwhile, the combined entry of Fernando, Jingco Brothers, Madlambayan Brothers and Bobby Doromal (Jimafer Magic) ruled the Pinoy Cockers Association of the Philippines (PCAP) 5-cock derby last Jan. 23. The next PCAP derby is on Feb. 6. Call 896-3545 at 895-6475.

Government Warning:

Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health.

Suns torch Heat; Magic fan streak

MIAMI—RAJA BELL SCORED 22 POINTS, STEVE Nash had 21 points and 14 assists, and the Phoenix Suns blew most of a 21-point second-half lead before beating the Miami Heat, 107-98, on Thursday night.

The Suns saw their once-dominant margin whittled to five with 4:15 left after Dwyane Wade hit a pair of free throws to get Miami within 98-93. But Nash hit a 3-pointer on Phoenix's next possession, then added a three-point play about a minute later to ensure the Suns would snap a two-game losing streak.

James Jones scored 17 of his 20 points in the second quarter for Phoenix, which connected on 13 of 24 shots from 3-point range and was 20-for-21 from the foul line—compared with a 12-for-22 foul-shooting effort by the Heat.

Wade had 25 points for Miami, which fell to 0-6 against the teams with the NBA's four best records: Phoenix, San Antonio, Dallas and Detroit. James Posey and Udonis Haslem each had 16 for the Heat, and Shaquille O'Neal added 15 points and 12 rebounds.

In Philadelphia, Pat Garrity opened overtime with consecutive 3-pointers and scored a season-high 24 points, and Hedo Turkoglu had 25 in Orlando's season-high fifth straight win—a 119-115 victory over the 76ers.

Keyon Dooling sank the go-ahead free throws with 1:08 left in overtime and had 18 points. Dwight Howard had 22 to help Orlando run off its longest winning streak since it won six straight in 2002. The Magic won their second straight road game after losing their previous eight.

Allen Iverson, who appeared to hurt his ankle in the final minute of regulation, scored 38 points and had 15 assists, and Chris Webber used a big second half to finish with 32 points and 11 rebounds for the Sixers, who had their three-game winning streak snapped.

In Seattle, Dirk Nowitzki scored 29 points and reserve Jerry Stackhouse added 21 as Dallas closed the most successful road trip in franchise history by beating the SuperSonics, 104-97.

Nowitzki added 12 rebounds and was 10-for-11 at the free throw line. *AP*

PHOENIX forward Shawn Marion goes up for a dunk against the Miami Heat. REUTERS

AUSTRALIAN OPEN

Federer reaches men's final

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—TOP-seeded Roger Federer advanced to the Australian Open final with a 6-3, 5-7, 6-0, 6-2 victory Friday over No. 21 Nicolas Kiefer.

Federer was sharp—and occasionally brilliant—in beating Kiefer for the seventh consecutive time. The Swiss star now will face heavy underdog Marcos Baghdatis on Sunday as he seeks his seventh Grand Slam title.

Serving notice early that Kiefer would get no easy points, Federer broke for the only time he needed in the first set to go up, 3-1, at one point sprinting in from the baseline for a drop shot and flicking a backhand around the net post and down the line for a clean winner.

In the same game, Federer reached another drop and sent a lob over Kiefer's head that he tracked down but smacked well long.

Kiefer leveled the match by breaking Federer as he served at 5-6 in the second set. Kiefer wasted his first opportunity with a weak forehand into the net, but Federer sliced a backhand just wide on the next.

Implacable as usual, Federer stepped up his game and zipped through the third set, committing only two unforced errors—after 26 in the first two sets—to retake control. With Federer serving at 5-0, Kiefer saw his only break point vanish on a shot that was called long but that TV replays showed was on the line.

Kiefer held serve to start the final set, only to see Federer run off five straight games. Kiefer saved two match points while serving at 1-5, then a third as Federer served in the next game. Federer finished it off with a serve that Kiefer whacked into the net.

"I really turned it up when I had to," said Federer.

Swiss flag T-shirts were scattered about Rod Laver Arena, and the crowd was clearly behind Federer against the testy Kiefer, who repeatedly questioned calls.

He was fined earlier in the tournament for foul language and was warned twice about obscenities in the quarterfinals.

Yan Zi and Zheng Jie became the first Chinese players to win a Grand Slam title, beating Lisa Raymond and Samantha Stosur, 2-6, 7-6 (7), 6-3, in the women's doubles final.

Yan and Zheng trailed by a set and 3-1 and were down match points twice in the second set tiebreaker against their top-seeded rivals, who won the US Open title. The Chinese pair also saved three match points in the quarterfinals.

Yan called the win "a great step" for Chinese tennis. Compatriots Sun Tiantian and Li Ting won the women's doubles gold at the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Martina Hingis, returning from a three-year layoff, reached Sunday's mixed doubles final with India's Mahesh Bhupathi. They beat Stosur and fellow Australian Paul Hanley, 6-3, 6-3, and will face sixth-seeded Daniel Nestor of Canada and Elena Likhotseva of Russia. Hingis earlier reached the women's singles quarterfinals.

In Saturday's women's final, eighth-seeded Justine Henin-Hardenne of Belgium will try to extend her Melbourne Park streak to 14 wins against No. 3 Amelie Mauresmo of France. *AP*

He's no Joe Blow, he's Joe Dumuk

By Percy D. Della

COMMENTARY

HE IS NOT JUST ANOTHER JOE blow when it comes to sports.

He is Joe Dumuk and he makes a lot of sense.

Check out some of Joe's gems:

"Our 113 gold medal harvest worth the overall title in the recent Southeast Asian Games was a godsend. A nation devoid of present-day heroes has 113 new ones."

"But come to our senses we must and quick. The national dream that was the SEA Games is over. Let us band together to avoid national despair over the Asian Games this December."

From Joe's lips to the nation's eyes to read.

Uncensored. Uncut.

Our guy is no sports aristocrat who lives in the limelight. Up North though, he is a sports celebrity of sorts.

Out there in the sticks of La Union, he instills the ideals of hard work, honesty and discipline in the minds of young athletes.

All of 5 feet 2 inches, Joseph Abenoja Dumuk is a giant among the province's sports leaders.

Sports is local. From the countryside springs many sports stars. Which makes it all the more worthwhile to seek *promdis* like Joe and solicit their two cents worth on current sports events.

Here's more of his musings:

"The basketball imbroglio boggles the mind. Our cage supremacy in Asia is history. Parity has long set in. Why fight over a 15-20-man delegation with feeble hopes of winning one medal. For the same money or even less, we can train and send 15-20 athletes with a fighting chance to win 15-20 individual medals."

He is not just another Joe Blow when it comes to sports.

He is Joe Dumuk, a fellow with sterling sports credentials who has worked in and around sports since 1973—three years after he finished college at the Diliman campus of the University of the Philippines.

Dumuk, 58, has had two stints as a staffer of the Philippine Sports Commission during its toddler years.

You can say that Dumuk, a professional mechanical engineer by trade, has sacrificed several jobs to remain faithful to his province.

Today he serves as the virtual chief of staff to San Fernando City Vice Mayor Bernardo Valero—known in the North's regional center for his sports battle cry "No no to Drugs, Yes yes to Sports."

From that tagline emerged several grassroots sports activities that have since morphed into tournaments of national and international caliber.

The La Union Chess Open, now on its fifth year of attracting at least three grandmasters, comes to mind. So is the La Union Long Board Open, a magnet for foreign surfers to the ocean off San Juan every year.

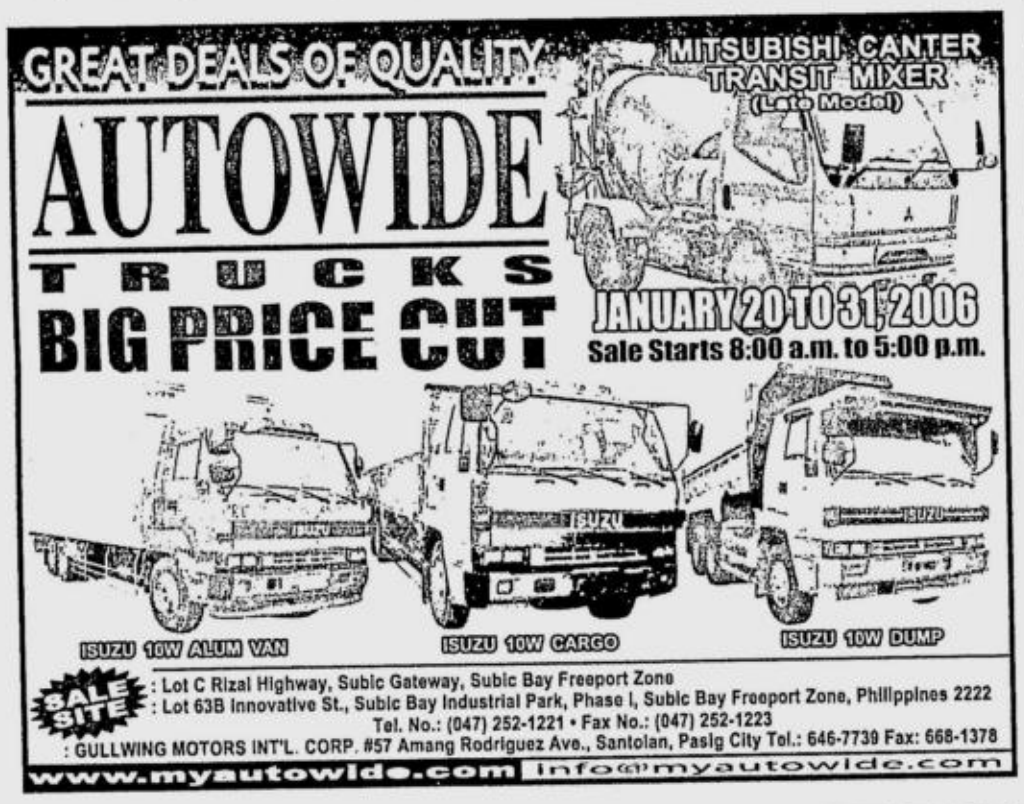
One final note from Mr. Dumuk.

He says we broke two SEA Games records on our way to the overall championship. "But everybody seems to ignore the fact that those records are a heck inferior than the Asian Games marks."

He recalls that Henry Dagmil's long jump feat of 7.8 meters pales in comparison to the 8.44-meter mark of Saudi Arabia's Salman Al-Khuwaldi in the Asiad. And Arneil Ferrera's hammer throw of 60.47 meters is barely a heave, against that of Koji Murofushi's. The Japanese owns the Asian Games record of 84.86 meters.

Joe knows his figures. He has been honored three times by the nation's sportswriters for his role as main stats man for the Philippine team in three editions of the SEA Games, including the 2005 in Manila last December.

Sports note: Speaking of local events, the Candon City Athletic Meet will unfurl at the Candon National High School and other venues on Feb. 10-12. The Meet will choose the city's representatives to the Ilocos Region Athletic Association (IRAA) whose host city has yet to be announced.



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E-mail: pr_saturday_special@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Nestor U. Torre
Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

SATURDAY.

Text us your feedback: inquirer sat name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283

NOW SHOWING

Love and ambition gone askew

By Rito P. Asilo

WILSON. Big-screen debut.

"Little Manhattan"

D: Mark Levin

S: Josh Hutcherson, Charlie Ray, Cynthia Nixon

JOSH HUTCHERSON DELIVERS a formidable one-two thespic punch this week with the release of Mark Levin's featherweight but heartwarming yarn about puppy love, "Little Manhattan" and "Zathura," Jon Favreau's implausible but visually ingenious big-screen adaptation of Chris Van Allsburg's ("The Polar Express") sci-fi tale.

You may wince at how fifth-grader Gabe (Hutcherson) takes his infatuation for Rosemary (Charlie Ray)—"the third prettiest girl in class," as the pubescent protagonist describes his muse—so seriously.

But, the movie works for hopeless romantics and closet softies who, despite the pallid pessimism of the grown-up world, still have a soft, vulnerable spot in their hearts to cherish the heady exhilaration—and embarrassment—of falling in love for the first time.

"Big Time"

D: Mario Cornejo

S: Michael de Mesa, Jamie Wilson, Joanne Miller

Mario Cornejo and producer-scriptwriter Monster Jimenez deliver the goods in this darkly comic tale about two petty thugs, Danny (Nor Domingo) and Jonas (Winston Elizalde), who grudgingly team up with Wilson (Jamie Wilson), the ambitious son of crime lord, Don Manolo (Michael de Mesa), and his starlet-girlfriend, Melody (Joanne Miller), in a P30-million kidnap-me scam that goes awry. The unlikely quartet may come from different walks of life, but they share a common dream: The Big Time!

As the film's hapless and clueless small-time crooks, Domingo and Elizalde manage to make their characters sympathetic, while Wilson—one of Philippine theater's best actors—makes a well-deserved splash in his big-screen debut.

For her part, Miller earns high marks as a starlet who constantly daydreams to become the next Sharon Cuneta—who later corrects herself: *"Ay! Mataba na pala siya ngayon!"*

While not entirely original in concept, the dead-on humor and fast-paced storytelling style of "Big Time," replete with hilarious pop-culture digs, amusing visual gags and diverting performances, come as a breath of fresh air in a beleaguered industry that badly needs a bracing boost.

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2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
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GP

3 ZATHURA
11:10, 2:20, 5:05, 8:20, 10:50
GP

4 HALF LIGHT
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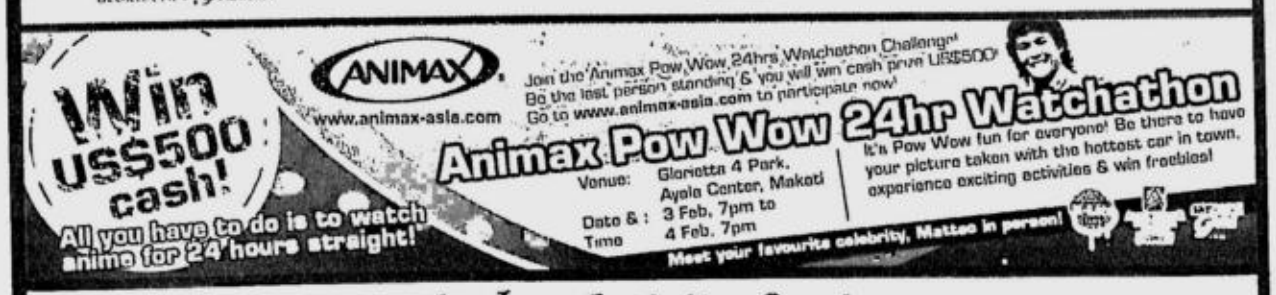

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G4 GLORIETTA 4	1 ZATHURA	2 HALF LIGHT	3 THX UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION GUARANTEED SEATS	
	4 RUMOR HAS IT	5 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA	6 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	7 THE MAID
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 ZATHURA		2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2	
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX ZATHURA GUARANTEED SEATS		2 THX CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 GUARANTEED SEATS	
	3 RUMOR HAS IT GUARANTEED SEATS	4 HALF LIGHT GUARANTEED SEATS	5 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION GUARANTEED SEATS	
ATC ALABANG TOWN CENTER	1 THX CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2		2 UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION	
	3 ZATHURA	4 HALF LIGHT	5 RUMOR HAS IT	
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GALLERIA 632-9116

1 ZATHURA • THX
2:15 4:40 7:05 9:30

2 ZATHURA
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

3 HALF LIGHT
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

4 UNDERWORLD 2
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12:10 2:35 5:00 7:25 9:50

7 RUMOR HAS IT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

8 THE MAID
1:25 3:35 4:45 7:55 10:00

9 The Chronicles of NARNIA
1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00

10 JARHEAD
12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

ERMITA 536-7809 to 12

1 ZATHURA
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

3 THE MAID
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:20 10:00

4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

5 The Chronicles of NARNIA
11:40 2:20 4:50 7:20 9:50

6 UNDERWORLD 2
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

7 HALF LIGHT
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

METRO EAST 682-8193 • 682-8199

1 RUMOR HAS IT
12:00 2:15 4:30 6:45 9:00

2 ZATHURA
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

3 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
11:25 1:50 4:15 6:40 9:00

4 UNDERWORLD 2
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

5 LITTLE MANHATTAN
12:15 2:00 3:45 5:30 7:15 9:00

6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
11:20 1:40 4:00 6:20 9:00

7 The Chronicles of NARNIA
12:30 3:20 6:10 9:00

8 THE MAID
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 -9:00

NOVALICHES 935-3231 / 935-3229-30

1 THE MAID
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 ZATHURA
6 The Chronicles of NARNIA

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1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE

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1 ZATHURA
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 The Chronicles of NARNIA
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

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2 ZATHURA
3 RUMOR HAS IT
4 JARHEAD
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LIPA (043) 757-3664 / (043) 312-5870

1 ZATHURA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 JUST LIKE HEAVEN
4 THE FAMILY STONE
5 JARHEAD

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1 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
3 THE FAMILY STONE
4 ZATHURA

ANGELES (045) 892-2348

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2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 THE FAMILY STONE
4 ZATHURA

IMUS (046) 875-3838 / (046) 471-8188

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2 The Chronicles of NARNIA
3 ZATHURA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 THE MAID

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5 SAINT ANGE
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Mandy Navasero

Special party

RECENTLY, THE public Relations Society of the Philippines (PRSP), headed by Milen de Quiros, held its Christmas party at 286 Bar and Restaurant on Arnaiz st. in Makati.

Seven groups presented production numbers to celebrate the Christmas spirit.

Team

Team One sang and danced to the tune of "Pinoy Big Brother's" theme song with guest Chix Alcala. Led by Maloli Espinosa (ABS-CBN), it also included Charlie Agatep, Elpi Cuna, Barbie Atienza, Bernie Bagaman, Teddy Perena, Fely Rosales, and Cathy Alcoba.

Team Two, led by PRSP president Milen de Quiros, included Max Edralin,

SPECIAL/ A2-4

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Composed songs for the occasion.

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OPENS FEB.8
THE STARS OF "ALEXANDER" & "BATMAN BEGINS"
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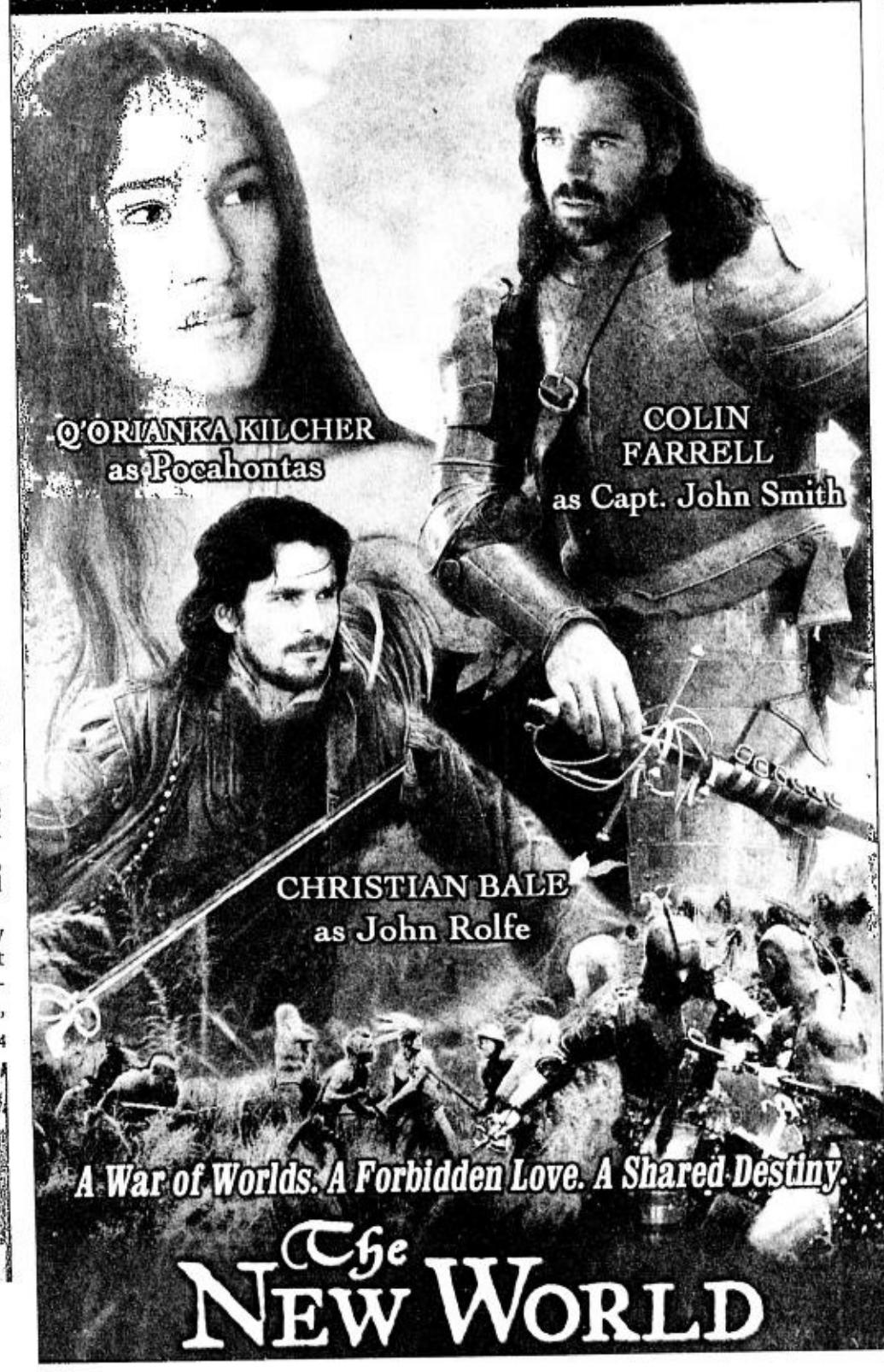

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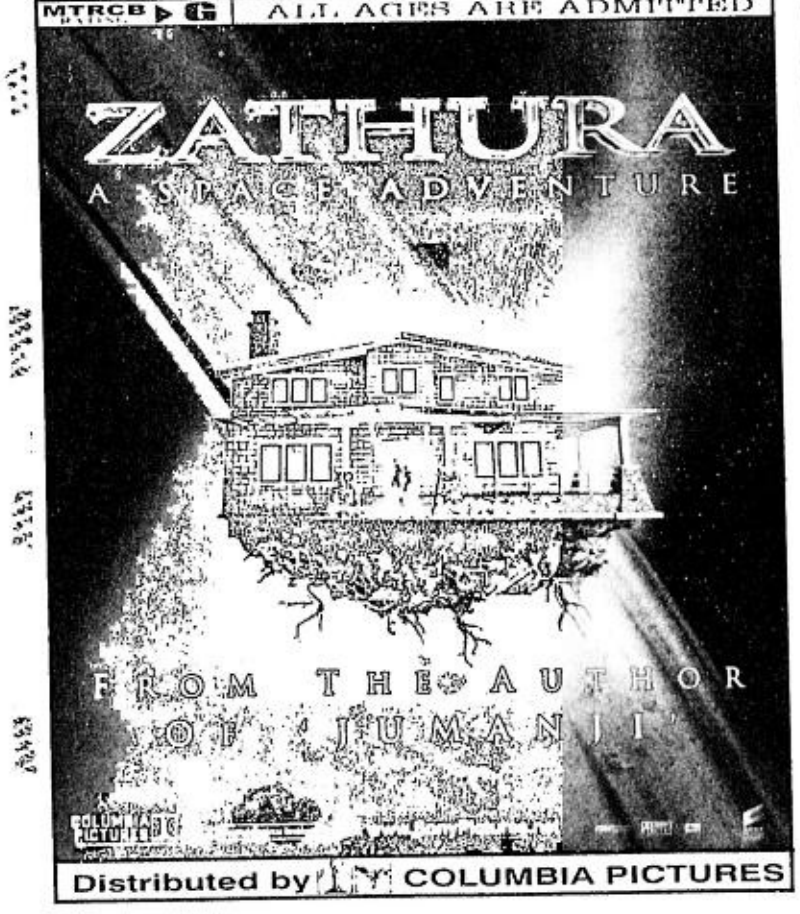
4TH 'SPACE ADVENTURE' DAY!
MTRCB G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



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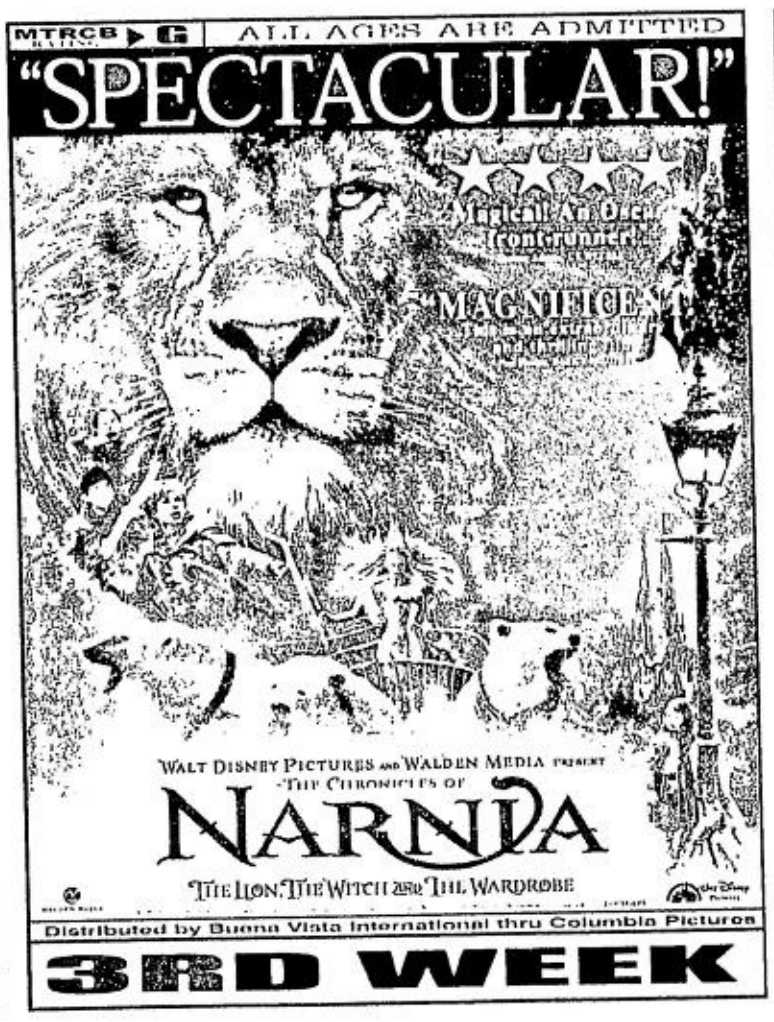
MTRCB G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED
"SPECTACULAR!"



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3RD WEEK

OPENS FEBRUARY 1
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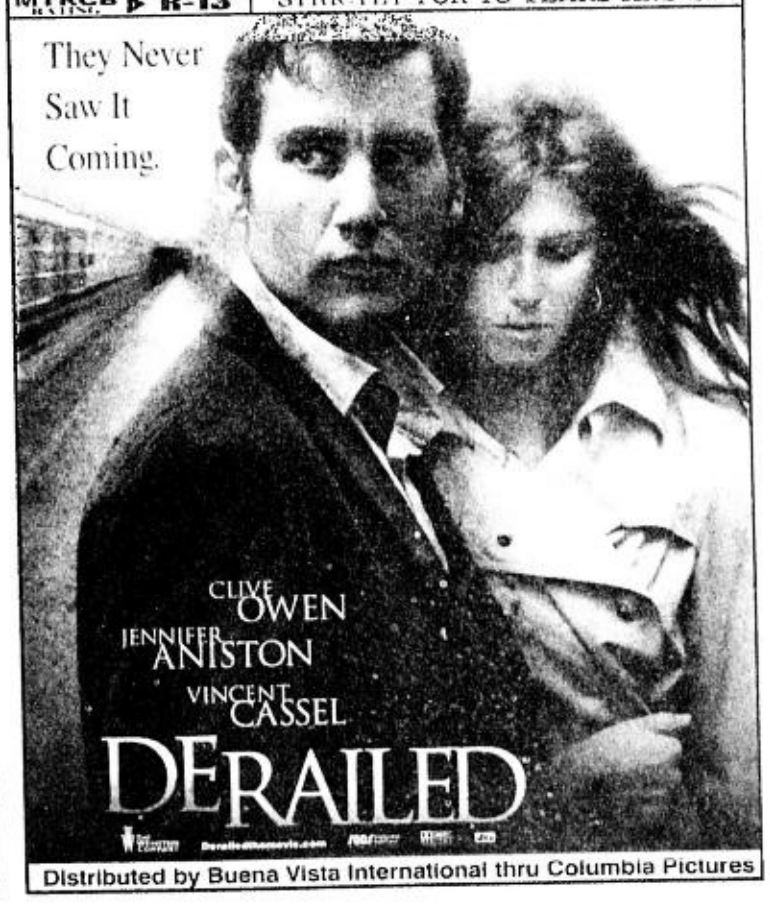

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MTRCB PG-13 | NOW SHOWING
THIS YEAR, THE GATES OF HELL WILL OPEN AND THE DEAD WILL WALK AMONG THE LIVING.. FOR 30 DAYS! HOW LONG CAN YOU STAY ALIVE WITH GHOSTS AS HOUSE MATES?

MTRCB G | ALL AGES ADMITTED
THIS SEASON, IT'S WAR!

STEVE MARTIN
CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
Same Big Family... Even Bigger Adventure.
NOW SHOWING

MTRCB PG-13 | "LAUGH OUT LOUD FUNNY!" - Maria Bolan, NBC-TV, Miami

Jennifer ANISTON Kevin COSTNER

Rumor has it...
Based on a true rumor.
SECTION EIGHT
NOW SHOWING

'Pag-ibig sa Bayan' reaps praises from gala audience

By Rito P. Asilo

THE CAST AND PRODUCTION staff of the new musical, "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," at Meralco Theater worked long and hard to make their show vivify its important and compelling subject matter—the Martial Law period in the Philippines as it affected the family of now Sen. Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel.

Despite their dedication and hard work, however, they weren't sure how the musical would impact on its gala performance audience last Jan. 21. So, they gave the show everything they had—and more!

DIAZ (center) and Sison (right) play proud parents in this rollicking scene.

TENSE moment in the production.

Combination

How would the audience react? Right after the opening song, they had their answer: The audience responded with warm applause.

As the musical progressed, the audience warmed up to it even more, greeting its combination of political history, personal drama, familial unity, tears, song, dance and laughter with consistently enthusiastic responses.

And, at the end of the brisk, involving and entertaining musical, as the players took their bows, the audience rose to its feet and rewarded their inspired performances with a standing ovation.

Later, key members of the audience detailed their reactions to the show, expressing how strongly it had impacted on them:

Former President Corazon C. Aquino: "I thought the delivery room scene was very cute! How writer-director Nestor Torre managed to squeeze in so many important events is amazing!"

Important message

Eggie Apostol: "Very entertaining! The musical had an important message for everyone to see. It should be shown all over the country."

Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban: "Well-directed. The music evoked love of country. Congratulations to all involved in this patriotic musical."

MARCO with the kids who play the Pimentels' children.

Former Sen. Loren Legarda: "It was touching, thought-provoking and entertaining. It made me feel sad, because what Nene and other nationalists were fighting for 20 years ago are the same issues we are fighting for today. Marco Sison and Jane Diaz did very well in their roles (as Nene and Bing). Although the play was political, making it entertaining and thought-provoking is a tribute to the director."

Melancholia

Dean Antonio Tupaz: "It was an awesome musical—honest, painful, factual—the hurt softened by the songs, yet the melancholia could not melt the truth in Nene's courage and heroism. Bing's musical genius has global content."

Retired Justice Jose Vitug: "Spectacular! The youth should see the show, especially those who never experienced Martial Law. I was touched by the scenes where the Pimentel kids visited their father in detention. You could feel the mixed emotions of sadness and happiness. The play was very well-handled. Congratulations!"

Lin Ilusorio Bildner: "Congratulations for staging a delightful and inspiring portrayal of a grim period in Senator Pimentel's political career. The singing was outstanding, the lyrics were light and wonderful, the acting superb, choreography good, the lighting well-used for dramatic emphasis. Above all, the script conveyed to each one of us the Pimentel family's very personal message of struggle, courage and hope."

Themes

Former Sen. Santanina Rasul: "Amazing! Each song in the musical could stand on its own. To be able to chronicle the Martial Law experiences of Nene, and weave the songs into the play is simply fantastic."

If you want to catch "Pag-ibig sa Bayan" at Meralco Theater, it has three more shows (Jan. 28, matinee and evening, and Feb. 4, evening). Call Ruby at 851-3120.

Racy album for Coco Lee

By Noelani Torre

IF YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT Coco Lee's newest album is all about, you just have to take a look at the cover. It's a photo of the Canto-pop diva and her very visible cleavage.

The title emblazoned underneath the abovementioned physical asset is "Exposed," Lee's second English-language album. This time around, she's naughtier than usual. In fact, the album is too racy for some people, most notably for the Chinese government's censors, who banned the album shortly after its release.

Free speech

However, belief in free speech notwithstanding, you'll probably sympathize with their decision—particularly when you hear the lyrics of some songs. "So Good," for example, isn't merely suggestive—it's explicit, and in an embarrassing way!

LEE. Sex sells.

The first verse goes "Big Daddy, close the door/ What are you waiting for?/ I'm crawling on all fours/ Come, join me on the floor." It gets worse when, just before the chorus, she lets loose with heavy-breathing—with sighs of "Harder, harder!" You either end up with a permanent cringe—or you'll die laughing!

Dubbed the Mariah Carey of Asia, Lee has become the latest misguided victim of the "sex sells" credo. There's even a centerfold pose, just millimeters shy of qualifying as a Playboy spread.

Sex does sell. But, all this smacks of desperation. She doesn't even have strong enough material to back her up.

The songs in "Exposed" sound like watered-down versions of R&B hits. There are some catchy beats—and Lee *does* have a pretty voice—but, there's little that's original in the 13-track, 50-minute dance-pop concoction. And those awful lyrics don't help at all!

Interval

In an interview with an online magazine, Coco said that she "spent two and a half years to put it all together. This album is my baby. I worked on it from scratch. I just wanted to have some music that could bring joy and happiness to people's lives."

If dying from laughter qualifies as joy and happiness, then Lee has certainly hit her mark!

Rukmini's prayer

(Conclusion)

LOTUS POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark

CONTINUATION OF RUKMI ni's prayer to the Supreme Being:

"My dear Lord, You have stated that people who possess nothing are very dear to You. Devotees who want to possess You renounce everything.

Property

"A great sage who does not possess any material property is also dear to You. These are persons who don't care for anything but Your Lordship.

"You are the source of opulence. You are the supreme source from which everything emanates—the reservoir of pleasure. Persons who are endowed with knowledge desire You and no one else. To win Your favor, they are willing to give up everything. You are the ultimate goal in life!

"In the spiritual world, a person is not subjected to the pains and pleasures of material society. Everyone should seek to be included in Your society.

"The Supreme Person has no equal. The perfect social system is one that puts you at its center. In a perfect society, everyone can remain eternally happy and blissful."

Putting the digital wave in perspective

By Rica Arevalo

A GOOD NUMBER OF DIGITAL filmmakers met recently at the UP Film Institute to discuss the emerging "new cinema" in the country.

"Duda" was the first digital film to get a mainstream commercial run. Cris Pablo did it by knocking on theater owners' doors and browsing the Internet for the proper projector. He then asked the projector company to sponsor his screenings.

He thought: "If a lot of people watch it, the theater owners *might* decide to buy the right projector." The commercial success of "Duda" encouraged him to make the gay-themed films, "Bathhouse" and "Bilog."

Status quo

"Mga Pusang Gala's" Ellen Ongkeko-Marfil shared, "The new trend in cinema is liberating. It criticizes the status quo. Cinema should be offered to everybody, because it's a form of communication. I want to reach out to different audiences. I want to create change."

Marfil is bringing "Pusang Gala" to schools as an alternative circuit that would regularly show digital films even after the movies' commercial run.

RICKY Davao and Irma Adlawan topbill Ongkeko-Marfil's "Mga Pusang Gala."

UFO Films' Raymond Lee, producer of "Maximo Oliveros" has been getting text messages congratulating him for the success of his film. But, truth to tell, the film's first-day gross wasn't *that* impressive.

*"Nakabawi kami, pero malaki ang ginastos namin sa pagpa*blow-up, *sa* promotions and booking fee. Booking is a tedious process. *Akala ko, kapag nagbigay ka ng* 500 posters, *kakalat na yon—hindi pala!* I didn't have access to agents." UFO's second film, "Sarong Banggi" will open in SM theaters on March 1.

Erik Matti added, "I encourage mainstream producers to make indie features. They think indie directors don't want producers to touch their films. In reality, *pakialamero ang* producers. For them, an independent movie that earns a million just 'breaks even,' and is thus a waste of energy!"

Dennis Marasigan, who directed "Sa North Diversion Road," entered the film industry in 1979. He shared, "*Ang* practice *sa* mainstream distribution, *magbibigay ng* downpayment *ang sinehan sa pelikulang 'di pa napo*-produce on the basis of its stars. *Nakalinya na ang* playdate. It would take another generation to change that.

Success

"But, because of the recent success of digital films, they are starting to recognize that digital films have the potential to earn. Money is their first and foremost concern."

Raymond Red wants to go back to his roots as an experimental filmmaker: "What we are seeing right now is exciting. It democratizes cinema. I travel abroad to show my experimental films. There's a market because of the arthouses in the US and Europe. We can no longer ignore these 'independent' audiences. The important thing is, you give inspiration to aspiring filmmakers."

The Lettermen

The Lettermen, composed of (from left) Darren Dawler, Donovan Tea and Tony Butala, will take local music fans down memory lane at 8 tonight at the Araneta Coliseum, with their signature love songs ("Love Is A Many Splendored Thing," "The Way You Look Tonight," "A Summer Place," etc.). Other shows are slated on Jan. 29, Iloilo; Jan. 30, Cebu, and Jan. 31, Davao. Call 911-5615.

Special party

From page A2-3

Ed Alcaraz, Rocky Dimaculangan, Rita Festin, Joel Lacsamana and Bambi Marfil.

Team Three, composed of Gen. Nes Isleta, Juris Soliman, Edwin Galvez, Lou Morales, Louie Banta, Andy Saracho and Rochelle Gamboa-Hilario, presented a number showing a typical Filipino family celebrating the *noche buena*.

Jones Campos led Team Four. The group (Campos, Melvyn Martin, Faith Aranton, Ronnel Javier, Ed Timbungco and Marlene Ochoa) performed Christmas songs that Jones himself composed.

Carols

Team Five was represented by its leader Bert Pasquin, who sang two Christmas carols.

I represented Team Seven with Margarita Locsin. We each brought a box filled with Christmas decors. We got Jones Campos and Lou Morales to pose as Christmas "trees," who were then decorated by members of our group.

Teams Three and Four tied for the grand prize. The lone inductee that night was Leah Salterio.

* * *

Join the Mandy Navasero Summer Photoworkshop from April 8 to May 27, or check out the MN Batanes Photo Safari from April 12 to 15. Call 521-7866 or 0917 801-2515.

Email mandynavasero@yahoo.com.ph, or call 899-1767

'Housemates' are bland performers

By Nestor U. Torre

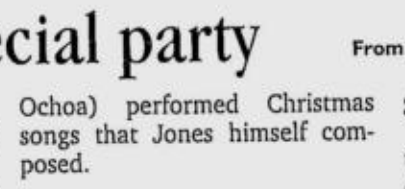
WHEN THEY WERE ON "PINOY Big Brother," the reality challenge's "housemates" were required only to be themselves. As such, most of them soon struck us as not very interesting or textured people.

Thus, we thought it was quite a waste of TV's starmaking power for it to have been expended on such bland or predictable people.

Competition

After the competition ended, the "housemates" were lionized and built up as TV personalities, or even celebrities. True enough, the new "stars" did become quite popular—but, their genuine interest value remained rather lame.

Like a bleak self-fulfilling prophecy, some of the "PBB" people did become *mga bituin—ngunit na-paka-lampa at lamya ang ningning!*



MILBY. Does he have what it takes to make it as a TV-film star?

After some weeks of the largely undeserved overexposure on ABS-CBN shows, we thought that most of the "housemates" would finally resume their non-celebrity lives—but, it was not to be!

All of a sudden, there they were again all over the TV screen—only this time, not as themselves, but as performers!

That turned out to be adding insult to injury, because their performances were generally even more inept than their "personal appearances."

In comedy scenes, they looked either stolid or TH-hysterical. In drama, they were mawkishly melodramatic. Only very occasionally did they pass muster as actors, so after the flurry of guest stints, and so-called specials, stars were definitely *not* born!

Yes, winner Nene could do well on "Citizen Patrol," but she wouldn't be performing there, she would simply host a public-service segment of ABS-CBN's evening newscast, and she should do that fairly well, because her heart's in the right place.

Matinee idol

And yes, Sam Milby should make it as a matinee idol by way of his first film, "Close to You," because his role in it is light and undemanding. And his passable singing ability is another asset he can count on in launching his show biz career.

Killer smile

But, is he here to stay? That's not certain at all. Just like Troy Montero, he's handsome, has a killer smile, sort of sings—but, he *is* a *balikbayan* who speaks mostly in English. That combination hasn't made a big star of Troy even after years and years, so why would it work for Sam?

To truly achieve stardom, Sam should learn to speak Tagalog as fast as possible, and hone his performing talents with workshops, so he has more to offer than just his signature smile.

As for the other "housemates," some are being packaged as sexy actresses, *kontrabidas* and comedians, but their chances of success are even less auspicious.

New albums for Fuentes, Merk

By Remy M. Umerez

TWO ALBUMS AIMING TO HELP sick and indigent children are now available. Musician Toti Fuentes is involved in both recordings.

Produced by talent manager Bibsy Carballo, the first album, "Rico J. and Friends" features duets and trios.

With Rico leading the featured performers, the collection, coproduced and arranged by Toti, includes Ricky Davao, Jackielou Blanco, Jenine Desiderio, Ivy Violan, Richard Merk, Jackie Magno, Bodjie Pascua, Miguel Castro, Tosca Puno, Kim Diaz, Roanne Mallari and Tirso Cruz III.

Base

A native of Cagayan de Oro City, Fuentes has toured several cities in the United States and has made Los Angeles his base.

Two years ago, Toti discovered he had liver cancer, and was given only three weeks to live.

He is still with us! Toti says it's his music that's keeping him alive.

On the other hand, Richard Merk's album under Manna Records, "Merk Christmas," contains his versions of well-loved carols like "O Holy Night," "Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas," "O Come All Ye Faithful," "O Holy Night" and "Christmas Song."

Longtime friend

Jacqui Magno, Richard's longtime friend, supervised the vocal arrangement of all tracks. Also in the album are the Fifth Gospel Choir, Reuben Laurente, John John Castañeda, Popoy Valmonte and Dingdong Boogie.

SATURDAY *Special*

Cinemalaya movies boost gifted actors' careers

By Nestor U. Torre

MILLER AND VALENTIN. Exceptional performances.

ONE OF THE MANY ENCOURAGING OFF-shoots of the 2005 Cinemalaya filmfest is the boost it's given to the careers of some new or "overlooked" actors.

For instance, grand prize winner, "Pepot Artista," discovered gifted child actor Elijah Castillo, who was cast by Doy del Mundo in the movie's plum title role.

"Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" similarly had a major young discovery in its own title-role player, Nathan Lopez.

Honest cop

In addition, it cast the talented but seldom used actor, JR Valentin in the key role of the honest cop whom Maximo adores.

"Room Boy" fielded the exciting team-up of Meryl Soriano and Polo Ravales as its two main leads. Both Meryl and Polo have been around for years, but the unconventional and challenging roles they were given enabled them to make a stronger impact than they ever had before.

And, in "Big Time," which is currently showing in some mainstream theaters, we're treated to the exceptional performances turned in by the gifted likes of Jamie Wilson, Winston Elizalde and Joanne Miller.

Quite a number of the Cinemalaya films have been so successful that other producers have tapped some of their actors for follow-up projects. This has enriched the local movie industry's acting pool, which has tended to be shallow and predictable.

Challenging characters

It's important to note, however, that a key reason why the Cinemalaya actors did so well was the fact that they were given complex situations and challenging characters to work on.

They may have come through in the alternative festival's movies, but if the mainstream industry gives them the usual undemanding and predictable roles, they can't really do much with them.

So, the boost they've gotten from their Cinemalaya exposure could be for naught. —Unless they act in other digital features, or in the new batch of 10 movies being lined up for Cinemalaya 2006.

The new or "remembered" finds should also shore up their advantage by acting onstage. Like Cinemalaya, some theater productions are innovative, daring and complex, and assign lead roles to non-stars.

In stage plays, Cinemalaya's discoveries can further hone their thespic skills, as the likes of Jamie Wilson and Elijah Castillo have been doing, without compromising them in the generally undemanding parts that mainstream movies and TV have to offer.

New breed

It would also be great if film and theater buffs would go out of their way to patronize productions that feature Cinemalaya's new breed of actors, and thus help make them popular.

This would in turn encourage ga-ga fans to adopt new and higher standards for stellar performances, and thus help raise the level of film appreciation in our neck of the cinematic woods.

"CONNECT THE DOTS." Provocative and deceptively hilarious.

Identity is major theme in Asian theater circuit

By Rito P. Asilo

DURING OUR TRIP TO HONG KONG LAST week to attend the Asia-wide theater symposium at the Hong Kong Arts Festival, we represented the New Voice Company and squeezed into our tight schedule a number of shows to make the most of our weekend-long stay in the former British colony.

We noticed that the recurring, dominant themes in the festival's many productions and discussions focused on the Asian identity, and how western influences have diluted how we look at ourselves as a people.

Ensemble piece

For one, we caught Ivan Heng's critically-acclaimed five-hander, the acting-singing-dancing ensemble piece, "Connect the Dots," a provocative and deceptively hilarious theatrical *cum* literary collage about Singapore's search for national and racial identity.

We also heartily noted that, despite limited financial and logistical resources, theater industries in the region are up and about. Even Macau

IDENTITY/ A3-2

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14. Entries earned daily from 12:00:00MN to 11:59:59PM of that day will qualify for the daily draw. Non-winning entries for the day will not be included in the succeeding daily draws but will be qualified for the scheduled weekly draw and grand draw, subject to the corresponding cut-off periods.
15. The following are the cut-off times for the weekly draws: Entries earned for the week from 12:00:00AM of January 23, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of January 29, 2006 (first weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of January 30, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 5, 2006 (second weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of February 6, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 12, 2006 (third weekly draw), 12:00:00AM of February 13, 2006 to 11:59:59PM of February 19, 2006 (fourth weekly draw) will qualify for the weekly draw. Non-winning entries for the week will not be included in the succeeding weekly draw but will be qualified for the grand draw.
16. Cut-offs and draw dates for the mobile raffle promo are as follows:

Daily Draws (7 daily draws to be done once a week)

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
Jan 23 - Jan 29, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Jan 30, 2006, 5 PM
Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 6, 2006, 5 PM
Feb 6 - Feb 12, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 13, 2006, 5 PM
Feb 13 - Feb 19, 2006	Daily at 11:59:59 PM	Feb 20, 2006, 5 PM

Weekly Draws

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
week 1: Jan 23 - Jan 29, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Jan 29, 2006	Jan 30, 2006
week 2: Jan 30 - Feb 5, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 5, 2006	Feb 6, 2006
week 3: Feb 6 - Feb 12, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 12, 2006	Feb 13, 2006
week 4: Feb 13 - Feb 19, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 19, 2006	Feb 20, 2006

Grand Draw

DATES COVERED	Deadline of Entries	DRAW DATE
Jan 23 - Feb 19, 2006	11:59:59 PM, Feb 19, 2006	Feb 20, 2006, 5 PM

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1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 11:30FS/11:55MF/02:10/04:25/06:40 08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:45END
2 ZATHURA 11:50FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45 08:25LFS/09:00LMF/10:40END
MEGAMALL
7 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 10:40FS/11:00MF/01:40/04:20/07:00 09:20LFS/09:40LMF/12:00END

CEBU (032) 231-3876
1 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 11:20FS/12:30MF/02:00/04:30/07:00 09:20LFS/09:30LMF/11:50END
2 RESERVED
3 ZATHURA 11:20FS/11:30MF/01:30/03:30/05:30/07:30 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:10END
MANILA
6 THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA 10:30FS/01:15MF/04:00/06:45 09:10LFS/09:30LMF/11:55END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 NARNIA
2 BIG TIME
3 ZATHURA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 HALF LIGHT
6 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
7 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
8 RUMOR HAS IT
9 KING KONG
10 UNDERWORLD 2
11 THE MAID
12 LITTLE MANHATTAN

SM CITY STA. MESA
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 HALF LIGHT
3 NARNIA
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
5 ZATHURA
6 RUMOR HAS IT
7 THE MAID
8 BIG TIME
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 KING KONG

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 ZATHURA
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 UNDERWORLD 2

SM SUPERCENTER VALENZUELA
1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 ZATHURA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 BIG TIME
2 ENTENG KABISOTE 2
3 KING KONG
4 NARNIA
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
6 RESERVED
7 UNDERWORLD 2
8 ZATHURA
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 THE MAID
11 RUMOR HAS IT
12 WHO'S YOUR DADDY

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
3 ZATHURA
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
5 HALF LIGHT
6 NARNIA
7 THE MAID
8 BIG TIME
9 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
10 RESERVED

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ZATHURA

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
1 ZATHURA
2 UNDERWORLD 2
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 BIG TIME
5 THE MAID
6 HALF LIGHT
7 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
8 NARNIA

SM CITY MANILA
1 ZATHURA
2 HALF LIGHT
3 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
4 UNDERWORLD 2
5 BIG TIME
6 NARNIA
7 THE MAID
8 LITTLE MANHATTAN
9 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
10 BLUE MOON
11 RUMOR HAS IT
12 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2

SM CITY SAN LAZARO
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 ZATHURA
3 HALF LIGHT
4 THE MAID
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 ZATHURA
2 NARNIA
3 BIG TIME
4 ST. ANGE
5 FAMILY STONE
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 ZATHURA
2 FAMILY STONE
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 NARNIA

SM SUPERCENTER MOLINO
1 NARNIA
2 ZATHURA
3 WHO'S YOUR DADY
4 RUMOR HAS IT

SM CITY BACOOR
1 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
2 THE MAID
3 ZATHURA
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2
5 UNDERWORLD 2
6 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
7 KING KONG
8 NARNIA

SM CITY MARILAO
1 ZATHURA
2 NARNIA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 IN HER SHOES

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 NARNIA
2 WHO'S YOUR DADDY
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 ZATHURA

SM CITY LUCENA
1 NARNIA
2 FAMILY STONE
3 THE FOG
4 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 ZATHURA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 NARNIA
4 THE FOG

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 UNDERWORLD 2
2 RESERVED
3 FAMILY STONE
4 ZATHURA
5 BIG TIME
5 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 THE MAN
8 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

SM CITY ILOILO
1 BEAUTIFUL BOXER
2 RESERVED
3 NARNIA
4 ZATHURA
5 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
6 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
7 RESERVED
8 FAMILY STONE

SM CITY DAVAO
1 ZATHURA
2 THE MAN
3 FAMILY STONE
4 EXORCISM OF EMILY ROSE
5 BIG TIME
6 NARNIA

SM CITY [illegible] DE ORO
1 NARNIA
2 IN HER SHOES
3 ZATHURA
4 AN UNFINISHED LIFE

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ZATHURA GP 1:45,3:55,6:05,8:15,10:20
RUMOR HAS IT PG13 12:50,3:05,5:20,7:35,9:50
CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP 12:30,3:30,6:30,9:30
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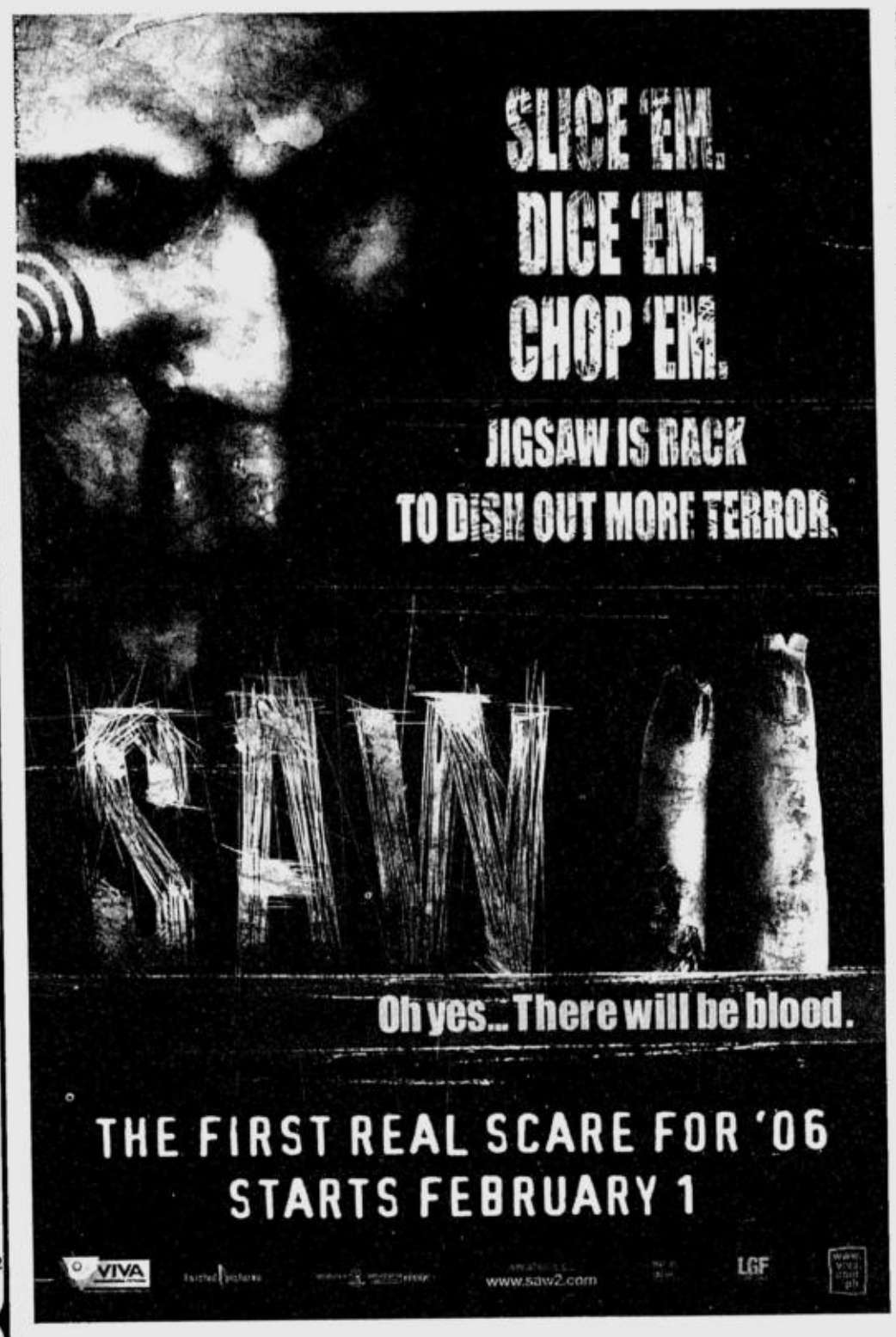

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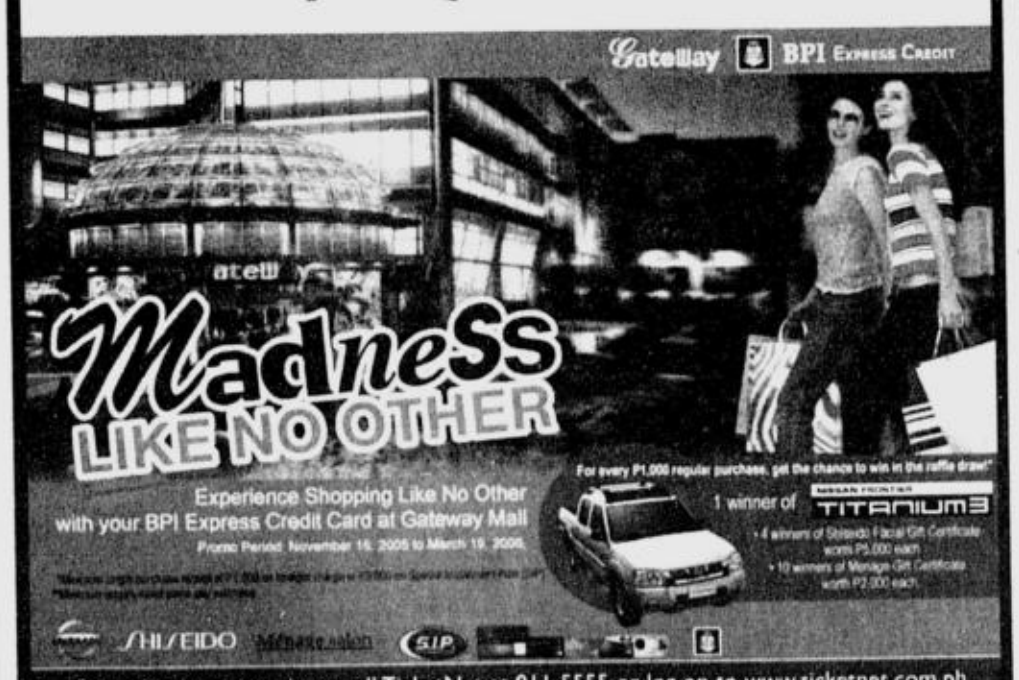

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Joan Page's memorable Philippine experiences

By Behn Cervantes

JOAN PAGE DIDN'T EXPECT THE GOOD fortune that awaited her in the Philippines when she came here in 1948. She thought life here was primitive—but she was astounded to realize how wrong she was: Manila *was* a cosmopolitan city!

By a stroke of luck, the Dayrit family who ran the Manila Grand Opera House exploited Joan's seductive pose, caught it on photographs, and billed her as the star of their show. Katy de la Cruz, the real star of the production, didn't mind.

Pretty voice

But, after opening night, Katy, forthrightly told Joan that she had a pretty voice, but it wasn't *that* great! So, if she really wanted to win the audience, she had better learn Filipino songs—and Mommy Kate would teach her!

Joan had the good sense to listen and learn. On the second night, she rendered "Dahil Sa 'Yo" and got a standing ovation from the ecstatic crowd. As a result, Page became a bonafide star! *(To be concluded)*

PAGE. Sang "Dahil Sa 'Yo" and got a standing ovation.

Identity

From page A3-1

has its own fringe theater festival now!

Tang Fu Kuen, programming director of the Bangkok Fringe Theater Festival, and Audrey Wong, artistic co-director of Singapore's The Substation, admitted that, while more and more shows with regional sensibilities are being devised these days, sponsorships are still hard to come by. The medium of theater is, after all, still not as popular as film or television.

What Singapore hopes to develop is a self-sustaining industry.

Contrary to popular belief, it really isn't that hard to get invited to these events.

Diversity

As Wong and Lee Gyu-Seog, general director of the Seoul Fringe Festival in South Korea, reiterated, sometimes, it only takes an email or a video. As Audrey stressed: "We support the diversity that different cultures have to offer. And believe it or not, it's *that* simple!"

The same process is true if you want to perform in Catherine Lau's Hong Kong Fringe Club (where NVC had staged its "Classical Monique" and "TVM" productions), or Benson Puah's The Esplanade in Singapore.

Yaohua Su of Taipei's Artist Village admitted that language does pose a problem.

At the festival, it wasn't just the shows that stoked our passion for the theater. Even at the symposium's lectures—we were treated to "theatrical" displays of showmanship!

Should-see TV shows this week

By Nestor U. Torre

LAST JAN. 22, JOLLIBEE'S TONY TAN CAKtiong became the first Filipino to be featured in the documentary program, "Crossings," on the Discovery Channel.

We caught the hour-long presentation and appreciated its inspiring take on the former ice cream parlor operator who decided to think big—*and* Filipino—and came up with a homegrown fast-food chain that has "dared" to compete against international rivals—and win!

Truth to tell, however, we found the documentary rather "soft" in spots, because it relied pretty much on the views expressed by the company's owners, which generally remained unchallenged by outside opinions.

Competitive edge

The documentary did better when it delved into the Filipino company's competitive edge against its foreign rivals: Its espousal of the "Filipino" taste in food, as opposed to the generally blander taste of American fast-food meals.

Still, the program's overwhelmingly complimentary tone caused it to run out of steam before its full hour of telecast time ended.

We're happy that Jollibee has reaped the success and honors it has, but the "Crossings" documentary about it wasn't as incisive and insightful as it could have been.

Despite these less than ecstatic notes, however, we believe that the company's instructive story should be told *and* heard, so why not catch the documentary's replay at 4 p.m. today?

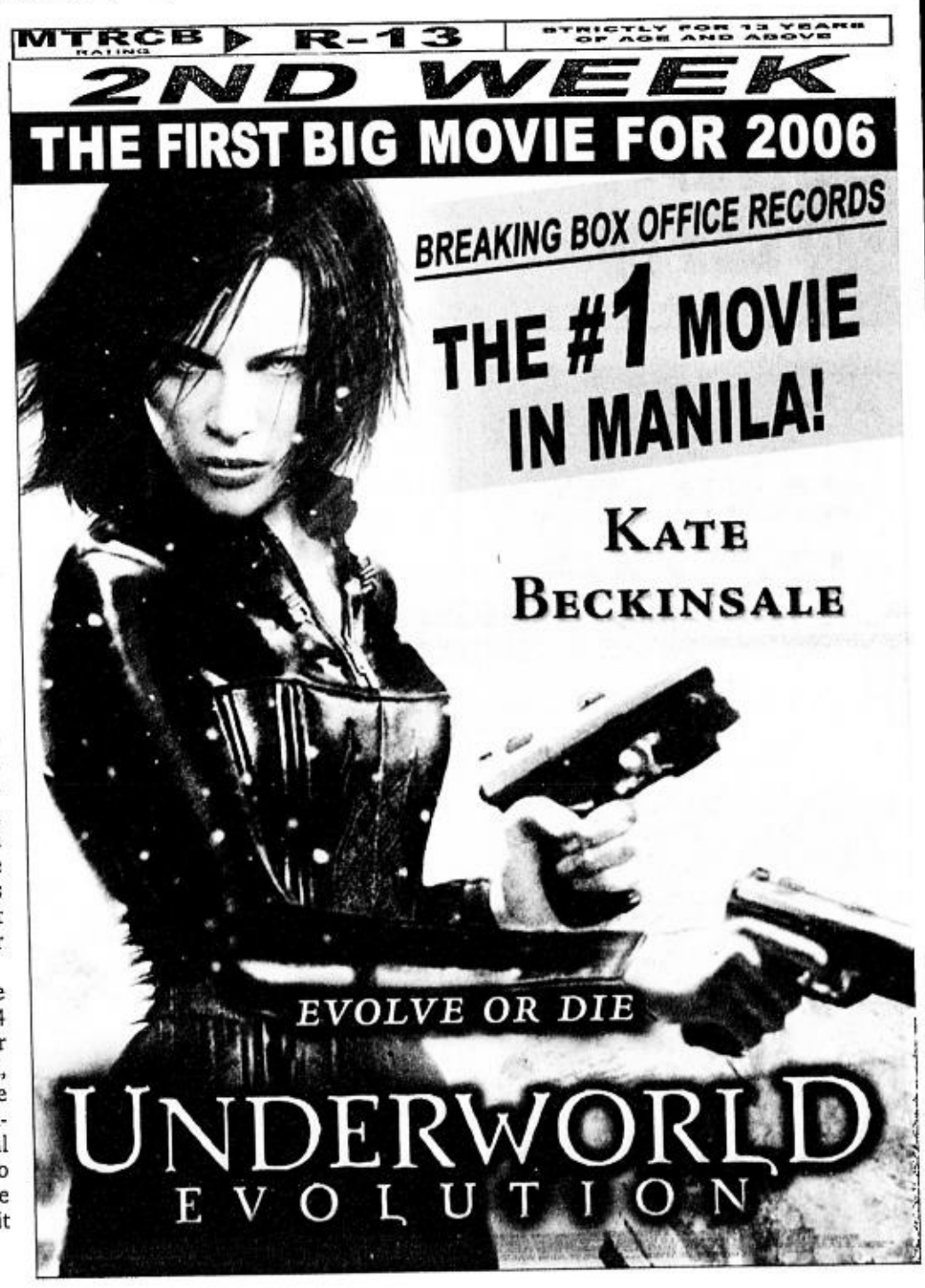
'Of Dogs and Gods'

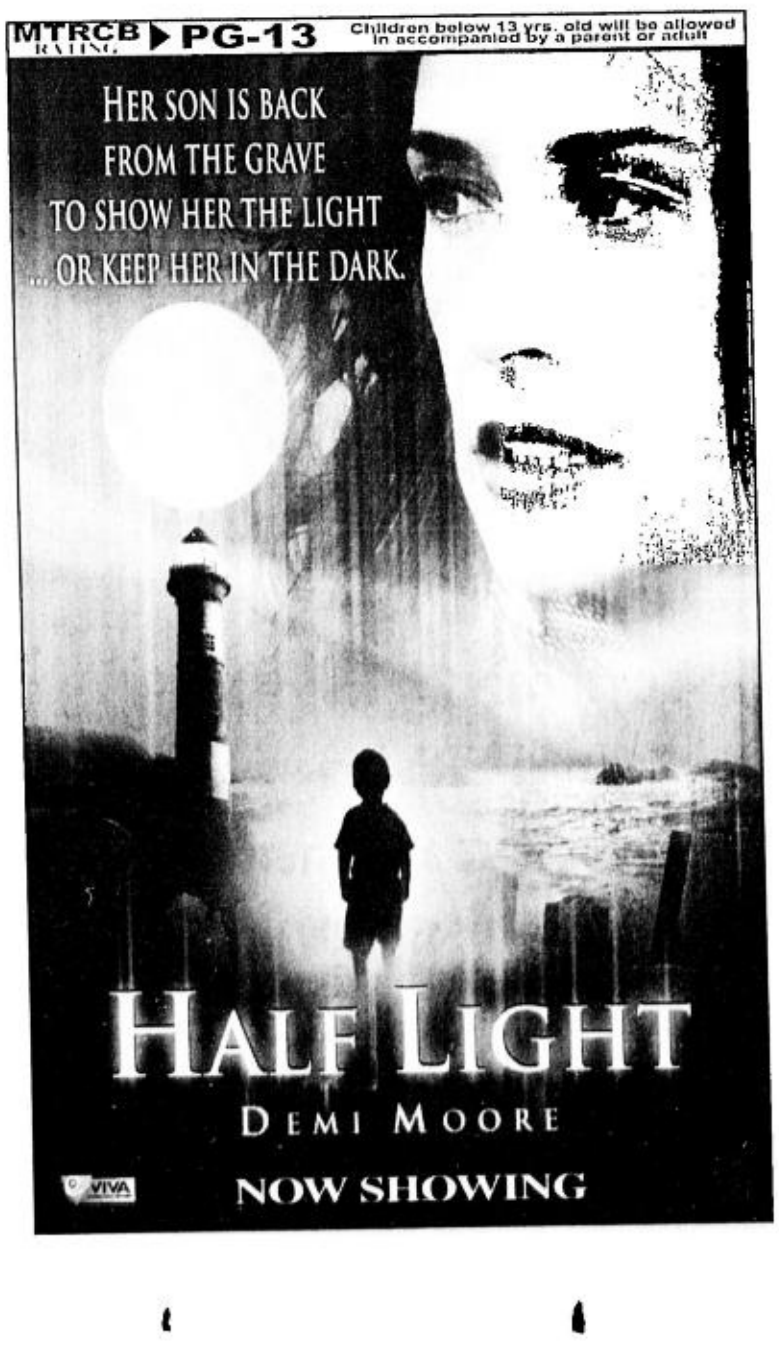
Another should-see program is "Of Dogs and Gods" on the Animal Planet (10 p.m. on Jan. 30). The one-hour special traces the fascinating history of the dog in China, from its domestication to mythical being; from palace pet to life in a high-rise—and everything in between.

'Pow Wow Watchathon'

Finally, Animax Asia will stage a 24-hour animé marathon challenge on Feb. 3, at 7 p.m. The first "Animax Pow Wow Watchathon" also features side events like racing at the Initial D racetrack, hockey using a broomstick at the Tweeny Witches booth, shooting at ghouls using a water gun, etc.

Expected to grace the event is 2004 Karter of the Year Matteo Guidicelli, who also voices the role of Takumi Fujiwara in "Initial D—Fourth Stage." To register for the watchathon, visit www.animax-asia.com.





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2 (DOLBY) ZATHURA
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4 (DOLBY) UNDERWORLD-2

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2 (DTS) ZATHURA
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 RUMORS HAS IT

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(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146

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2 (DOLBY) ZATHURA
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2 JARHEAD
3 ZATHURA
4 UNDERWORLD-2

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Pacific Mall Lucena Tel (042) 660-5271

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THE FOG
LAGOT KA SA KUYA KO
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1 UNDERWORLD-2
2 KING KONG
3 ZATHURA

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2 ZATHURA
3 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
4 THE MAID
5 UNANG TIKIM

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1 (DOLBY EX) JUST LIKE HEAVEN
2 ZATHURA
3 (DTS EX) BLUE MOON
4 FAMILY STONE

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1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 BLUE MOON
3 (DOLBY) ZATHURA
4 (DTS) JUST LIKE HEAVEN

Cine Nepo
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1 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
2 KUTOB
3 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
4 DOMINO D/W TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

Centre Plaza Cinema
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1 KUTOB
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748

1 BLUE MOON
2 ST. ANGIE

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) ST. ANGIE
2 MASARAP ANG BAWAL
3 UNANG TIKIM
4 (DTS) BLOODFIST

Lianas MovieCity
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1 (DOLBY) THE CHRONICLES OF NARNIA
2 DON'T GIVE UP ON US
3 (DTS) ZATHURA
4 UNANG TIKIM
5 TERRORIST HUNTER

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2 ZATHURA
3 JARHEAD
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I Will Love You
Unchained Melody
Graduation Day
No Other Love
You'll Never Walk Alone
The Wonder of You
Young Love
Love Is A Many Splendored Thing
Time To Cry
Walk On By
She Cried
It's All In The Game
Seventh Dawn
Sofly As I leave You
I Believe
Venus
Portrait Of My Love
If Ever I Would Leave You
You've Lost That Loving Feeling
Sealed With A Kiss
Red Roses For A Blue Lady
The Things We Did Last Summer
Turn Turn Turn
I Only Have Eyes For You
Moon River
Witchita Lineman
More
The Impossible Dream
Up Up & Way
Going Out Of My Head
The Look Of Love
Never My Love
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Traces / Memories
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Concert for Mowelfund

By Boots Anson-Roa

ROA. The foundation's head.

AFTER MOWELfund's heartwarming New Year gift-giving program for its members' dependents (in collaboration with Bibsy Carballo's Snack team), it will launch "Alay Ko Para sa Aking Kapwa," the foundation's major fundraising concert this year, with Richard and Roni Merk as co-sponsors, on Jan. 30 at 7 p.m., at Merk's Bar Bistro in Greenbelt 3.

Mowelfund, the Movie Workers Welfare Foundation, is essentially the "SSS" of the film industry. It was established in 1974 by former President Joseph "Erap" Estrada.

Benefits

Over the last 32 years, Mowelfund has expended more than P50 million in benefits. It remains steadfast in its "reason for being." Its board or directors include Atty. Esperidion Laxa, National Artist Eddie Romero, Marichu Maceda, Prof. Josefino Cenizal and director Boy Vinarao.

Since 2002, Mowelfund has subsisted despite a 50-percent cut from its annual subsidy. So far, cost-cutting measures and fundraising efforts have not been enough to overcome its deficit. An annual P300 membership fee entitles a member to some P77,000-worth of benefits. This disparity is "life-threatening."

Performers

Mowelfund thanks the performers who have agreed to perform in the show: Toti Fuentes, Pilita Corrales, Kuh Ledesma, German Moreno, Ricky Davao, Leo Martinez, Tirso Cruz III, Edgar Mortiz, Jenine Desiderio, Ivy Violan, Pauleen Luna, Bayang Barrios, Montet Acoymo, Miguel Castro and Jacqui Magno.

We also wish to thank our generous donors: Globe Telecom, CDO Foods, Hershey's, SM Entertainment, Precy Florentino and Enerva.

If you want to help, please call Chit Sambile at 727-1915 and 727-1961.

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WHAT'S INSIDE

BDO, SMIC to list GDRs in London /B3

Economist says political woes may weaken peso /B10

BUSINESS

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VAT collections fall short of target

BIR, Customs blame loopholes in old law

By Michelle V. Remo

THE NATIONAL GOVERNMENT COLLECTED ONLY P156.82 billion from the value-added tax last year, with the Bureaus of Customs and of Internal Revenue missing their targets despite the implementation of the expanded VAT law in November.

Government documents showed that of the total VAT collections last year, the Bureau of Customs contributed P69.4 billion while the BIR accounted for P87.39 billion.

The Customs was supposed to generate 72.5 billion from the VAT, while the BIR, the government's main revenue earner, was tasked to collect P94.7 billion last year. These targets did not take into account the additional revenues from the VAT Reform Law because of the uncertainty of its implementation last year.

The VAT Reform Law was delayed for four months because of petitions by critics before the Supreme Court. It was estimated to have generated about P4 billion in additional revenues between November and December last year.

The BIR and the Customs have blamed loopholes in the old VAT law for their failure to hit their VAT collection goals.

The BIR's VAT collection, however, was higher than the 2004 figure of P80.22 billion.

In a report to the Department of Finance, its head agency, the BIR said the lower-than-programmed VAT collections were due to the increase in the input VAT credits claimed by sectors such as manufacturing, wholesaling and retailing, radio and television, water service, cement and telecommunications.

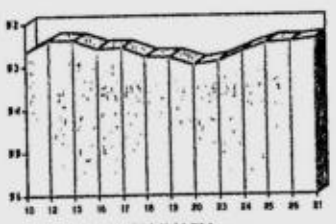
Under the old VAT law, businesses could claim all their input VAT credits, a flaw which the DOF earlier blamed for lost potential revenues and identified as a source of tax dishonesty. The DOF and the BIR suspected that some businesses were claiming more than their actual input VAT credits.

Under the new VAT law, the government imposes a 70-percent VAT cap. With the cap, the maximum amount of input VAT credits that a business can claim is equivalent to only 70 percent of

VAT/ B3

INDICATORS

CURRENCIES



JANUARY

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

₱52.385 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 27, 2006

¥116.28 = $1

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 27, 2006

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per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 27, 2006

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.19% higher

SHARE PRICES CLOSED 0.19 PERCENT higher yesterday as continued gains in index heavyweight PLDT allowed the market to push its recent modest advance, dealers said.

They said the gains, however, were capped by profit-taking before the Lunar New Year holiday, when many fund managers are expected to be on vacation.

The composite index rose 4.08 points to 2,121.89 after trading between 2,117.81 and 2,126.16. Volume was 2.59 billion shares worth P1.32 billion.

The all-shares index rose 4.22 points to 1,024.46. *AFP*

Shell leads consortium in oil search off Palawan

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE OPERATOR OF THE MULTIBILlion-dollar Malampaya natural gas project has teamed up with the government and two private firms to look for oil and gas in an area near its current production field.

In a joint satement, Shell Philippines Exploration BV said it signed with the Department of Energy, Kuwait Foreign Petroleum Exploration Co. (Philippines), and South China Resources Inc. a deal on Service Contract No. 60, which covers a "relatively unexplored" area of 1.01 million hectares offshore north of Palawan.

Interest in SC 60 is distributed as follows: Spex, 55 percent; Kufpec Philippines, 30 percent, and SCR, 15 percent.

Kufpec is a subsidiary of state-owned Kuwait Petroleum Corp. while SCR is a local firm listed on the Philippine Stock Exchange and involved mainly in oil exploration.

An SC is a license issued by the energy department allowing explorers and developers to scour oil and gas prospects within the country and continue to the production stage in case petroleum reserves were found.

The partners said the SC 60 project, which used to be covered by Geophysical Survey and Exploration Contract No. 99, involves "one of the promising sites" for petroleum exploration identified by the Philippine Petroleum Resource Assessment Project Study.

The study, conducted by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) and the DOE, provided updated data on the petroleum basins in the country and identified the level of prospectivity of each area.

Under SC 60, the consortium committed to spend at least $24 million or about P1.27 billion during the seven-year exploration period.

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Altis 1.8 E A/T	878,000	100,000	67,006	46,142	36,776	26,243	21,175	18,282
Altis 1.6 E A/T	800,000	100,000	59,984	41,307	32,928	23,497	18,960	16,366
Altis 1.6 E M/T	765,000	100,000	56,834	39,137	31,201	22,265	17,966	15,506
Altis 1.6 J M/T	708,000	100,000	51,702	35,604	28,389	20,258	16,347	14,106
Innova 2.5 G A/T	1,045,000	100,000	82,485	56,802	45,253	32,293	26,057	22,505
Innova 2.5 G M/T	980,000	100,000	76,634	52,772	42,047	30,005	24,211	20,909
Innova 2.0 G A/T	985,000	100,000	77,084	53,082	42,294	30,181	24,353	21,031
Innova 2.0 G M/T	930,000	100,000	72,133	49,673	39,580	28,244	22,790	19,681
Innova 2.5 E M/T	885,000	100,000	68,082	46,883	37,360	26,660	21,512	18,575
Innova 2.5 J M/T	798,000	100,000	60,250	41,490	33,069	23,598	19,041	16,439
Innova 2.0 J M/T	748,000	100,000	55,749	38,390	30,602	21,837	17,621	15,210

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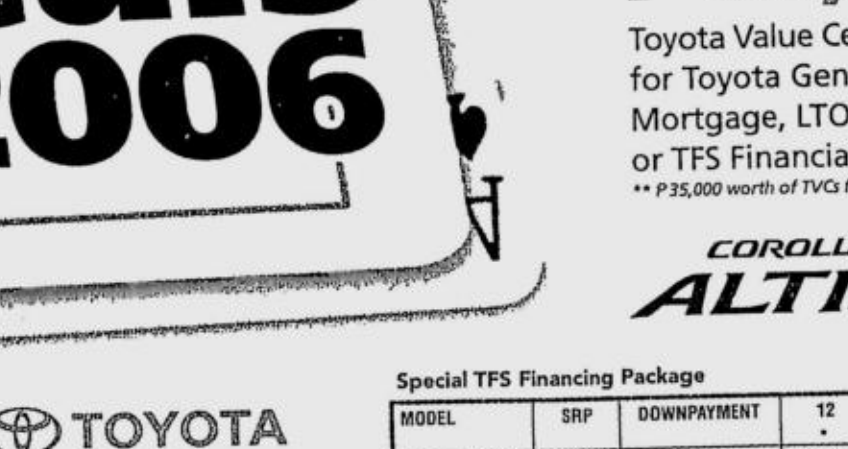

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DENR rushing in the wrong direction, NGOs say

By Ernesto M. Ordoñez

LAST JUNE 11, A LETTER WAS sent by leaders representing thousands of holders of Community Based Forest Management Agreements (CBFMAs).

They asked for a meeting with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to address what they believed was the unjust and unlawful cancellation of CBMFAs.

There appears to be no rush in answering this letter.

In contrast, there appeared to be an inordinate rush to cancel all CBFMAs without due process.

CBFMAs were issued by the government to get communities to take on the responsibility of protecting the forests and mangrove plantations.

CBFMAs also provide much needed livelihood to the community residents who count among the poorest sectors in our society.

Today, 200,000 of the 450,000 hectares of mangroves in the coastal areas and 1.9 million of the 4 million hectares of forests in the uplands are covered by CBFMAs.

To suddenly cancel all the CBFMAs without due process is certainly rushing in the wrong direction.

AO 24 and 25

Many CBFMA stakeholders claim that this rush in CBFMA cancellation is connected to the similar rush in the DENR Secretary's signing of DENR Administrative Orders (AOs) 24 and 25. These cover mangrove areas and upland forests, respectively.

Though signed, these AOs have not been published, and therefore, have not yet been implemented.

They were also not subjected to the appropriate consultation needed for AOs with such far reaching impact.

COMMENTARY

Fortunately, after hearing from members of the Association of Marine Scientists last week, the DENR Secretary ordered the revision of AO 24.

Meanwhile, there appears to be no rush in the withdrawal of the order to cancel all CBFMAs.

As each day passes, our environment is further endangered, and the lost livelihood opportunities worsen poverty.

Stakeholder involvement

Last June 18, the Tambuyog Development Center (TDC) met with stakeholders of five CBFMAs covering mangrove areas in Cebu and forwarded their urgent plea to DENR.

Like many CBFMAs, their contracts were cancelled despite their good performance in safeguarding the environment and providing livelihood opportunities.

Silver lining

Every dark cloud, however, has a silver lining. And in this case, there are two.

The first is that the principle of CBFMA cancellation is good, but only if applied properly.

It is believed that several CBFMAs are controlled by syndicates. Others are performing poorly. The cancellation of these CBFMAs is long overdue.

But the answer is not canceling even the well performing ones.

The automatic cancellation order should, thus, be immediately revoked.

The second silver lining is the attention now given to the needed investments in mangroves and upland forests.

The CBFMAs stakeholders know that investors can provide them with technology, markets, credit, and other assistance.

This would then be a win-win solution for both the investors and the stakeholders.

The leaders pointed to the 2,000 hectares that agrarian reform beneficiaries had cultivated in partnership with DOLE Inc.

But as in the DOLE case, the community should have the power to decide on the appropriate form of enterprise.

TDC Executive Director Arsenio Tanchuling said: "We must incorporate the appropriate flexibilities in the economic arrangements with the the prospective investors, depending on each unique situation."

"In all cases, safeguarding the environment and providing the community with livelihood opportunities must be the top priorities."

If we quickly implement Tanchuling's recommendation, we will finally be rushing in the right direction.

(The author is Agriwatch chair; former Cabinet secretary for Presidential Flagship Programs and Projects, and former undersecretary of agriculture and trade and industry. For inquiries and suggestions, email agriwatchphil@yahoo.com or telefax 02-8516635.)

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY
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PAWING, PALO, LEYTE
Tel. Nos. (053-3233075, 3233084)
FAX NO. 053-3233061

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID FOR GRAINS HANDLING SERVICES FOR NFA EASTERN SAMAR

The National Food Authority, Regional Office VIII, Pawing, Palo, Leyte invites qualified grains cargo handling service contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for provision of handling services in the different NFA utilized warehouses in Eastern Samar for CY 2006 (Rebidding) with the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC):

LOT NO.	PROVINCE	LOCATION OF WHSE.	EST. VOL. TO BE HANDLED (BAGS)	APPROVED BUDGET FOR THE CONTRACT
6	Eastern Samar	Hindang, Oras & Guiuan	476,000	P1,718,280.00

The application forms, eligibility requirements and other bid documents shall be obtained from the Regional Bids and Award Committee (RBAC) Secretariat after payment of a non-transferable/non-refundable bidding fee of Three Thousand Pesos (P3,000.00). The schedule of bidding activities areas as follows:

ACTIVITIES	DATE	TIME	VENUE
Issuance of Registration, Eligibility & Bid Documents	Feb. 1-10, 2006	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	NFA-R.O. 8 Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Deadline for Submission of Required Registration & Eligibility Documents	Feb. 15, 2006	5:00 PM	NFA-R.O. 8 Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Issuance of Certificate of Registration & Notice of Eligibility	Feb. 22, 2006	8:00 AM to 5:00 PM	NFA-R.O. 8 Pawing, Palo, Leyte
Pre-Bidding Conference	Feb. 23, 2006	2:00 PM	Conference Rm, NFA-R.O. 8
Submission & Opening of Bids	March 6, 2006	9:30 AM	Conference Rm, NFA-R.O. 8

A Special Power of Attorney (SPA) issued by the Prospective Bidder Owner (for sole ownership) and/or resolution from the Board authorizing their representative (for Corporations) to purchase the bid documents, to sign for and in behalf of the owner/corporation whatever documents relative to the bidding and to attend the pre-bidding conference and during the opening of the bids and shall be required.

NFA reserves the right to reject any or all bids to waive any formality/informality of the bids, received and to accept only such Bids which are advantageous to the National Food Authority or to the government.

(Sgd.) ANTONIO J. ADORABLE
Asst. Regional Manager/
Chairman-RBAC, NFA-RO8

(PDI - Jan. 28 & Feb. 4, 2006)

PNOC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
Energy Complex, Merritt Road
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City 1634
Tel. No. 893-1320, Local 5279

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inviting all interested suppliers to apply and submit sealed bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

Quick Connect Pipes and Accessories Under FGO 50215
Approved budget: PHP23,900,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be available for issuance at the above address c/o **Eloisa J. Hufana** starting **January 28, 2006**, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P400.00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying certain matters, a pre-bidding conference shall be held on **February 6, 2006, 2:00 p.m.** at the above address.

Applications for eligibility and sealed bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Procurement and Materials Management Division, at the above address and thereafter dropped in the padlocked bid box thereat not later than 2:00 p.m. (Procurement Department Office Wall Clock time) on **February 20, 2006**. Public opening of bids shall follow immediately thereafter. **Late bids shall not be accepted**.

Prospective bidders shall signify conformance to the bidding terms and conditions, as required, and shall ensure the same through proper submission/execution. Source of funding is from Internal Cash Generation of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Budget for the Contract in order to qualify.

PNOC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to annul the bidding process, to reject any or all bids, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected bidder or bidders or any obligation to inform the affected bidder or bidders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDC's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee I

(PDI-Jan. 28 & Feb. 4, 2006)

BOARD OF INVESTMENTS dti

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that SUNGWOO TECHNOLOGIES PHILIPPINES (SWTP), INC. is applying for registration with the Board of Investments (BOI) as New Export Producer of Tool and Die for Electronic Application on a Non-Pioneer Status with capacity of 2,387 pieces per year with project/plant site located at Meridian Avenue corner 3rd Street, Meridian Industrial Complex, Balibago, Sta. Rosa, Laguna.

Any person with valid objection/s on the above-mentioned project may file his/her objection in writing, under oath, with the BOI within three (3) days from the date of this publication.

(Sgd.) **RUDY B. CAÑA**
Director
Project Evaluation and
Registration Department

(PDI - Jan. 28, 2006)

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City
is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2006

FELLOWSHIPS

I. **3-Year Fellowship Training Program in Adult Cardiology***
- 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
- PCP Diplomate

II. **1-Year Subspecialty Fellowship Training Program in Electrophysiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Non-Invasive Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Peripheral Vascular and Critical Care Cardiology***
- Completed 3 years Fellowship in Cardiology in PCP and PCC accredited institutions.
- Submit a research proposal
- Certificate of Fellowship

III. **Adult Pulmonary Medicine***
- PCP Diplomate

* ***Deadline for submission of application is on February 27, 2006***
* ***Academic Year 2006 starts on April 1, 2006***

IV. **CV Anesthesiology Division****
- 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

V. **Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division****
- 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

VI. **Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine****
- PCP Diplomate

** ***Deadline for submission of application is on February 17, 2006***
** ***Academic Year 2006 starts on April 1, 2006***

VII. **Pediatric Cardiology**
- 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
- at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

You can submit your application as soon as possible.

General Requirements:
1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation with at least one letter written by the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies signed by different Doctors will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:
ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D
Department Manager II
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to: oer@phc.gov.ph

THE 2005 AGENCY PERFORMANCE AWARDS

Government honors outstanding private recruitment and manning agencies

The Philippine government, through the Department of Labor and Employment and the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, gives honor to outstanding Philippine private recruitment companies through the Agency Performance Awards.

The Top Performer Award and the Excellence Award, are given to deserving recruitment and manning agencies in recognition of their exemplary performance in promoting decent and quality overseas employment for Filipinos as well as its pioneering achievement, industry leadership, and entrepreneurial initiatives. The Award of Excellence is given to consistent Top Performer Awardees for their industry leadership, foreign exchange inward remittances and social awareness and responsibility. Special citations are also given to some of the agencies for their particular achievements in the areas of deployment, foreign exchange generation, marketing, and sustained efforts in the use of the electronic submission system or the e-Submission.

Started in 1984, the institutionalization of the POEA's awards and incentives program pushed the overseas employment stakeholders to strive for excellence in their field. Last year, the government also paid tribute to outstanding employers which provided quality employment to our Filipino workers; and exceptional overseas Filipino workers received accolades through the Bagong Bayani awards. The 2005 Agency Performance Awards shall be held at the Manila Pavilion Hotel on January 31, 2006.

The Awardees

AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Landbased Sector
Atlantic Gulf & Pacific Company of Manila Inc.
Dahlzhen International Services, Inc.
EDI Staffbuilders International Inc.
EEI Corporation
Eligardi Enterprises Inc.
Gatchalian Promotion Talent's Pool Inc.
Industrial Personnel & Management Services Inc.
International Skill Development Inc.
Manpower Resources of Asia Inc.
Omanfil Int'l Manpower Development Corp.
Philippine Hospitals & Health Services Inc.
Sangle Bernabe International Inc.

Seabased Sector
Anglo-Eastern Crew Management Philippines Incorporated
Avantgarde Shipping Corp.
Baliwag Navigation Inc.
Barko International Inc.
Career Philippines Shipmanagement Inc.
CF Sharp Crew Management Inc
Dolphin Shipmanagement Inc.
Hanseatic Shipping Phils. Inc.
Inter-Orient Maritime Enterprises Inc.
Jebsens Maritime, Inc.
Leonis Navigation Company Inc.
Magsaysay Maritime Corporation
Maritime Services & Management Inc.
Naess Shipping Philippines Inc
NFD International Manning Agents Inc.
NYK-Filship Management Inc.
Oriental Shipmanagement Company Inc.
Pacific Ocean Manning Inc.
Pacific Seamen Services Inc.
Philippine Hammonia Shipagency Inc.
Philippine Transmarine Carriers Inc.
Sea Power Shipping Enterprises Inc.
Singa Ship Management Phils. Inc.
Stolt Nielsen Transportation Group, Inc.
Trans-Global Maritime Agency Inc.
United Philippine Lines Inc
Wallem Maritime Services Inc

TOP PERFORMER AWARD

Landbased Agencies
Abba Personnel Services Inc.
Aim High International Placement Corp.
All-Pro Staffing & Consulting Services
Ameinri Overseas Employment Agency Inc.
Anglo-European Services Inc.
Billboard Promotion, Inc.
Cherub Manpower Inc
Deltavir Overseas Job Placement & General Services Inc
Dynamic International Services Corp.
East West Placement Center Inc.
Eureka Personnel Mgt Services Inc.
First Champion International Entertainment Inc.
Grand Placement & General Services Corp.
Infinity International Manpower Services
J Star International Promotion Inc.
JS Contractor Incorporated
Lead Resources Management Corp.
Mission Way Manpower Services Inc
Reliable Recruitment Corporation
Supreme Overseas Manpower Export Specialists Inc.

Seabased Agencies
Bahia Shipping Services Inc.
Bergesen D Y Philippines Inc.
Bright Maritime Corporation
CTI Group Phils., Inc.
Crewserve Inc.
Dohle-Philman Manning Agency Inc.
Hoegh Fleet Services Phils. Inc.
KGJS Fleet Management Manila Inc.
Magsaysay Mitsui O.S.K Marine Inc.
Michaelmar Phils., Inc.
MST Marine Services (Phils.) Inc.
Net Ship Management Inc.
North Sea Marine Services Corp.
Orophil Shipping Int'l. Co. Inc.
OSM Maritime Services, Inc.
Parola Maritime Agency Corp.
Senator Crewing (Manila) Inc.
Southfield Agencies Inc.
TSM Shipping (Phils) Inc.
Ventis Maritime Corporation
Veritas Maritime Corp

SPECIAL CITATIONS

Highest deployment of landbased workers
Non-Stop Overseas Employment Corp.

Highest deployment of seafarers
Magsaysay Maritime Corporation

Highest deployment of professionals
Skills International Company Inc.

Highest foreign exchange earnings-
International Skill Development Inc.
Magsaysay Maritime Corporation

Exemplary welfare programs and allied services

Landbased Agencies
Dalzhen International Services, Inc.
Gatchalian Promotion Talent's Pool Inc.
International Skill Development, Inc.
JM International Inc.
JS Contractor Incorporated
Manpower Resources of Asia Inc.

Seabased Agencies
Dolphin Ship Management, Inc.
Inter-Orient Maritime Enterprises Inc.
Jebsens Maritime Inc.
Magsaysay Maritime Corporation
NYK Fil-Ship Management Inc.
Oriental Shipmanagement Company, Inc.
OSM Shipping Phils. Inc.
Seapower Shipping Enterprises, Inc.
United Philippine Lines, Inc.

Pioneering efforts in developing quality labor markets
Aboitiz Jebsen Manpower Solutions, Inc.
Bond Worldwide Inc.
Grand Placement & General Services Corp.
Northwest Placement Inc.

Exemplary technical capability

Landbased Agencies
Gatchalian Promotion Talent's Pool, Inc.
International Skill Development, Inc.
JS Contractor Incorporated

Seabased Agencies
Leonis Navigation Company, Inc.
Magsaysay Maritime Corporation
Net Ship Management, Inc.
NYK-Fil Ship Management, Inc.
Philippine Hammonia Shipagency, Inc.

Pioneering and sustained efforts in E-submission

ADD International Services Inc.
Anglo-European Services Inc.
East West Placement Center Inc.
Finest Asia Resources Inc.
LBS-e Recruitment Solutions Corporation

For the active involvement in the various policy formulation and procedural/operational consultation work on the overseas employment program and participation in various projects/programs for the promotion of welfare and employment of overseas Filipino workers and seafarers

Confederated Association of Licensed Entertainment Agencies (CALEA)
Overseas Placement Association of the Philippines (OPAP)
Philippine Association of Service Exporters, Inc. (PASEI)
Philippine Association of Manpower Agencies Deploying to Lebanon (PAMADEL)
Pilipino Manpower Agencies Accredited to Taiwan, Inc. (PILMAT)
Filipino Association for Mariner's Employment, Inc. (FAME)

Philippine Overseas Employment Administration
Hotlines: 7221144/7221155
Website: www.poea.gov.ph

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project/Brief Description	1 lot - Supply of manpower, equipment, tools and supplies for the servicing and maintenance of landscaped areas at the BSP Main Complex
Approved Budget for the Contract	P3,188,400.00
Contract Duration	One (1) year

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	18 January - 02 February 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	03 February 2006 - 9:30 AM
3. Opening of Bids	21 February 2006 - 2:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the
5. Post-qualification	) prescribed periods allowed in the
6. Notice of Award	) Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P1,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) JUAN DE ZUÑIGA, JR.
Chairman

(PDI - Jan. 28, 2006)

BDO, SMIC list GDRs in London

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

INVESTMENT FIRM PRIMEBRIDGE Holdings Inc. of retail magnate Henry Sy has listed 9.1 million global shares of its banking affiliate Banco de Oro Universal Bank on the London Stock Exchange (LSE) on Thursday, the company yesterday said in its disclosure.

Primebridge is a subsidiary of Sy's flagship company SM Investments Corp. (SMIC).

The Global Depositary Receipts (GDRs)—a form of fund-raising instrument traded on the overseas market—represent shares of Banco de Oro Universal Bank and are equivalent to 16.8 percent of the bank's total outstanding shares.

Banco de Oro's GDRs are said to be the only Philippine issue listed on the London bourse. Sources said the GDR fetched a price of $13.70 apiece when it was listed on Thursday. The price was higher than its initial offer of $12.70.

The GDR offer attracted strong interest from international investors, with 41 percent of demand coming from the United States, 32 percent from investors in Europe, and the rest coming from Asia.

HENRY SY

The funds to be raised from the GDR offer will be set aside for BDO's expansion and future acquisitions.

Priced at $12.70 on Jan. 19, the GDRs have since increased in price by approximately 4 percent.

"The success of this GDR offering reaffirms international investors' confidence in the BDO team, and the strategy that they are undertaking," said Jose Sio, SMIC chief finance officer.

Primebridge, which has a 22-percent stake in BDO, raised $100 million from the sale of the GDRs to foreign investors. Each GDR represents 20 shares of Banco de Oro.

The deal was managed by Macquarie Bank Limited.

The SM Group's move to raise more than P6.1 billion from foreign investors is in preparation for its controversial acquisition of Equitable PCI Bank, according to Inquirer sources.

Banco de Oro president Nestor Tan had said that the funds would be used to boost the group's holdings in the country's third largest bank.

"[The] proceeds [from the sale of global depositary receipts] will be used for various SM Investment projects, including the purchase of more EPCIB shares, should it become available," Tan said.

Tan's statement may be an indication that the SM Group is preparing for an aggressive merger battle with existing shareholders of EPCIB and other potential buyers of the bank.

Hoarding feared as sugar prices surge

By Christine A. Gaylican

WITH LOCAL SUgar prices surging to almost P1,400 per 50-kilogram bag (LKG), the Sugar Regulatory Authority is preparing to fend off market speculation and hoarding of the vital commodity.

Sugar mill gate prices rose by 50 percent from an average P750 per bag due to growing demand from local and international markets.

The sugar bi-product ethanol, which could be used as a substitute for traditional fossil fuels in vehicles, also contributed to the growing demand.

The current surge in prices will affect small and medium industrial users, which account for 60 to 70 percent of the estimated local demand placed at 1.95 million metric tons, SRA Administrator James Christopher Ledesma yesterday said.

"We have to break the speculation happening now and put back the sanity into sugar trading," he said.

As an attached-agency of the Department of Agriculture, the SRA has no control over the sugar supply now in the hands of traders.

Ledesma said that the abnormal price behavior indicates hedging and speculation in the market as some producers are convinced that a shortfall will occur.

To temper the rise in local sugar prices, the SRA has announced that some 50,000 tons of sugar will be imported duty-free to shore up the local supply and meet the requirements of the United States.

This will be the first time in four years that the country will be importing sugar.

In the past, local production has been at a surplus.

First Gen expects ₱8.5B from IPO

FIRST GEN CORP. EXPECTS TO raise P8.5 billion from the sale of new shares during its maiden offering on Feb. 10.

This is the stock exchange's first major initial public offering for the year.

The total amount is lower than First Gen's earlier projected proceeds of P11.2 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange (PSE), First Gen said that it has lowered its initial public offering price, after securing regulatory approval.

The price of each share is now P47.

First Gen will offer 180.91 million primary shares.

No secondary shares will be offered.

Some 20 percent, or 36.18 million common shares of the total offer, will be allocated to small local investors.

First Gen will start its domestic offer on Jan. 31.

Local brokers said that at P47, First Gen will trade at 8.5 times the 2006 price-earnings, which is at par with independent power producers in the region.

But its revenue growth prospects are hinged on whether First Gen will be able to increase its generation capacity through acquisitions, local analysts said.

First Gen earlier said that the net proceeds from its primary offer would be used to improve existing facilities, and invest in capacity expansion, which may include the acquisition of power generation facilities.

Elizabeth L. Sanchez

Filinvest gets nod to raise capital

FILINVEST LAND Inc. (FLI) has secured the approval of the corporate regulator to raise its capital by P6 billion.

In a petition filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), FLI said it would be hiking its authorized capital stock to P16 billion from P10 billion.

Of the increase, 25 percent or P1.5 billion has been subscribed and paid in the form of stock dividends.

FLI earlier said it was setting aside capital expenditure of P10 billion for the next five years to develop several projects. *Elizabeth L. Sanchez*

VAT collections fall . . .

From page B1

its output VAT.

With the VAT Reform Law, the government hopes to generate P81.4 billion in additional revenues this year. The new law basically expanded the coverage of the tax to include oil and electricity, among others, and will raise the tax rate from 10 to 12 percent starting Feb. 1.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Jan. 27, 2006)

Stocks	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
FINANCIAL					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	36	36.5	35.5	36.5	286,900
Bank of the Phil. Islands	58.5	59	58.5	58.5	2,213,200
China Banking Corp.	605	605	605	605	660
Citystate Savings Bank	19	19	19	19	600
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	60	61	60	61	169,600
International Exch. Bank	20.5	20.5	20.25	20.25	32,600
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	29.5	30	29.5	30	683,300
Philippine National Bank	32	32	32	32	13,500
Phil. Savings Bank	34	35	34	35	3,200
Security Bank Corp.	37.5	38.5	37.5	38.5	156,200
Union Bank of the Phil.	31.5	31.5	31.5	31.5	9,000
OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
Manulife Financial Corp.	3150	3150	3130	3140	790
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	1.02	1.02	1.02	1.02	76,000
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	5,500
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2100	2100	2100	2100	20
Ivantage Corp.	0.64	0.66	0.64	0.64	5,480,000
INDUSTRIAL					
ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	49	49	47.5	49	2,272,200
Manila Electric Co. A	13.75	14	13.75	14	3,700
Manila Electric Co. B	22	22	21.75	22	97,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.4	6.5	6.4	6.4	2,480,000
Petron Corp.	4.8	4.85	4.75	4.75	2,049,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.93	0.93	0.93	0.93	1,200,000
FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
Ginebra San Miguel Inc.	23.5	23.5	23.5	23.5	37,800
Jollibee Foods Corp.	37.5	37.5	35.5	36.5	841,500
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.5	1.56	1.5	1.56	176,000
San Miguel Corp. A	63	63.5	62.5	63.5	105,200
San Miguel Corp. B	86.5	86.5	85.5	86	202,000
Universal Robina Corp.	19.5	19.5	19.5	19.5	7,600
Vitarich Corp.	0.29	0.29	0.29	0.29	700,000
CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
Southeast Asian Cement	0.34	0.35	0.34	0.34	4,000,000
Engineering Equip. Inc.	1.22	1.26	1.18	1.2	9,209,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	4.45	4.45	4.45	4.45	495,000
CHEMICALS					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	8,000
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
Global Equities Inc.	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	0.0725	600,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	30,000,000
Abacus Con Res & Hdg B	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	500,000
Ayala Corp.	330	332.5	327.5	327.5	194,250
Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	40,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	4.85	4.85	4.75	4.75	122,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.025	0.025	0.024	0.025	5,300,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.22	2.22	2.22	2.22	111,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.007	0.007	0.007	5,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.87	0.91	0.87	0.89	1,750,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	89,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.86	1.08	0.86	0.92	570,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	8.9	8.9	8.8	8.8	31,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.06	1.1	1.06	1.08	10,679,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	3.15	3.15	3.15	3.15	321,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.22	1.26	1.22	1.26	465,000
House of Investments Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.22	1.24	292,000
JG Summit Holdings Inc.	4.4	4.4	4.3	4.3	1,307,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.21	0.25	0.21	0.25	150,000
Pacifica	0.011	0.011	0.011	0.011	12,000,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.27	0.29	0.27	0.28	16,320,000
Prime Media Holdings Inc.	1.18	1.18	1.18	1.18	23,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	1,190,000
SM Investments Corp.	230	231	226	229	162,950
South China Resources Inc.	0.6	0.62	0.6	0.62	230,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.115	0.115	0.115	0.115	230,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	10.5	10.75	10.5	10.5	5,387,300
Belle Corp.	1.04	1.06	1.04	1.06	1,136,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.185	0.185	0.185	0.185	1,410,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	1.68	1.68	1.6	1.62	2,290,000
C&P Homes Inc.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	60,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.235	500,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.49	0.5	0.49	0.49	18,210,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.72	0.72	0.72	290,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	8,333,000
Interport Res. B	0.004	0.004	0.004	0.004	8,000,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.215	0.215	0.215	0.215	1,620,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.49	0.49	0.49	0.49	300,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.42	1.48	1.42	1.46	15,890,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	15,160,000
SM Development Corp.	1.45	1.46	1.46	1.46	3,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.7	7.7	2,764,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.135	0.13	0.135	1,450,000
SERVICE					
TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.91	0.92	0.9	0.92	720,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	750	755	750	755	84,440
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.4	3.4	3.3	3.35	2,787,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1850	1850	1845	1850	72,180
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.175	0.185	0.175	0.18	10,670,000
Imperial Res.	0.011	0.012	0.011	0.011	7,600,000
Ionics Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	8,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.06	0.06	0.0575	0.06	8,400,000
Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	15,000
Philweb Corp.	0.031	0.033	0.031	0.033	1,249,400,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.9	1.92	1.9	1.92	515,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	12.25	12.5	12	12	2,182,400
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.71	0.71	0.71	0.71	200,000
HOTEL & LEISURE					
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.72	1.74	1.7	1.7	3,122,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	1,200,000
EDUCATION					
Ipeople Inc.	3.1	3.1	3.1	3.1	65,000
DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
Paxys Inc.	7.7	7.8	7.7	7.8	933,000
MINING & OIL					
MINING					
Apex Mining Co. Inc. A	1.16	1.16	1.14	1.14	100,000
Apex Mining Co. Inc. B	1.62	1.62	1.56	1.56	630,000
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.007	0.007	0.0065	0.007	70,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	5.9	6	5.8	5.8	455,000
Benguet Corp. A	6.3	6.3	6.3	6.3	7,000
Benguet Corp. B	29.5	29.5	29.5	29.5	5,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.225	0.235	0.225	0.225	9,430,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	13,530,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.017	0.017	0.017	0.017	2,900,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.026	0.026	0.026	0.026	8,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	20,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	1.4	1.4	1.38	1.38	1,003,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	2.24	2.24	2.14	2.16	11,880,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	26	26	26	26	262,000
OIL					
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.205	830,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	235,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	0.0085	147,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	70,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	100,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	4	4	4	4	14,000
PREFERRED					
PLDT (10% Pref) Series I	10	10	10	10	500
PLDT (10% Pref) Series K	10	10	10	10	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series L	10	10	10	10	900
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series T	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,400
PLDT (10% Pref.) Series U	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,000
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Hongkong	Dollar	0.105569	0.128931	6.7600
Switzerland	Franc	0.645029	0.787774	41.3038
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Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000088	0.000107	0.0056
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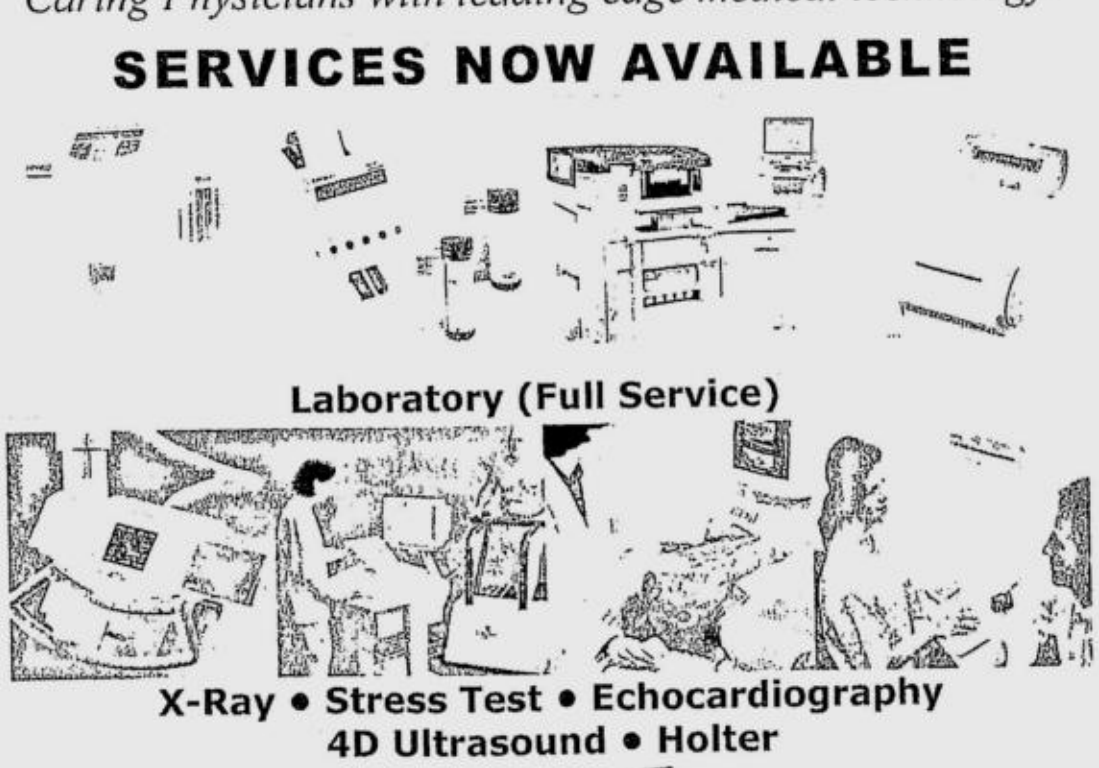

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Geneticist searches for 'Adam'

By Charles E. Buban

SEVERAL OF THE world's dominant religions believe that human beings came from one common ancestor, a so-called "Adam" who fathered us all. But did such person really exist?

This age-old question of where man came from has also intrigued Dr. Spencer Wells, an American geneticist and a National Geographic Society explorer-in-residence.

He said new DNA studies suggest that all humans descended from a single African ancestor who lived some 60,000 years ago and he expects a definitive answer to the question by 2010.

Last May, Wells was put in charge of the $40-million Genographic Project, a privately funded five-year collaborative effort of the National Geographic Society, IBM and the Waitt Family Foundation. It aims to collect 100,000 gene samples from indigenous people as well as from the public around the world in the hope that they would reveal some sort of pattern that could trace humanity's lineage back to Adam.

The team primarily employs the Y-chromosome (the male sex chromosome), which Wells likens to a family name since it is passed down from father to son.

In a phone patch interview, Wells said they already know which markers on the Y-chromosome to focus on.

"By getting samples of the Y-chromosome, we will be following DNA trails that go into the past," he said.

Unchanged through generations

The Y-chromosome, which only males possess, is passed from father to son without recombining with the female parent's chromosome. The Y-chromosome, explained Wells, remains basically unchanged through generations, except for random mutations.

Random mutations in DNA, which happen naturally and are usually harmless, are called markers that geneticists can use to go back in time and trace to the point at which it first occurred.

This way, Wells' team is able to determine when and where a new lineage began.

Collection centers

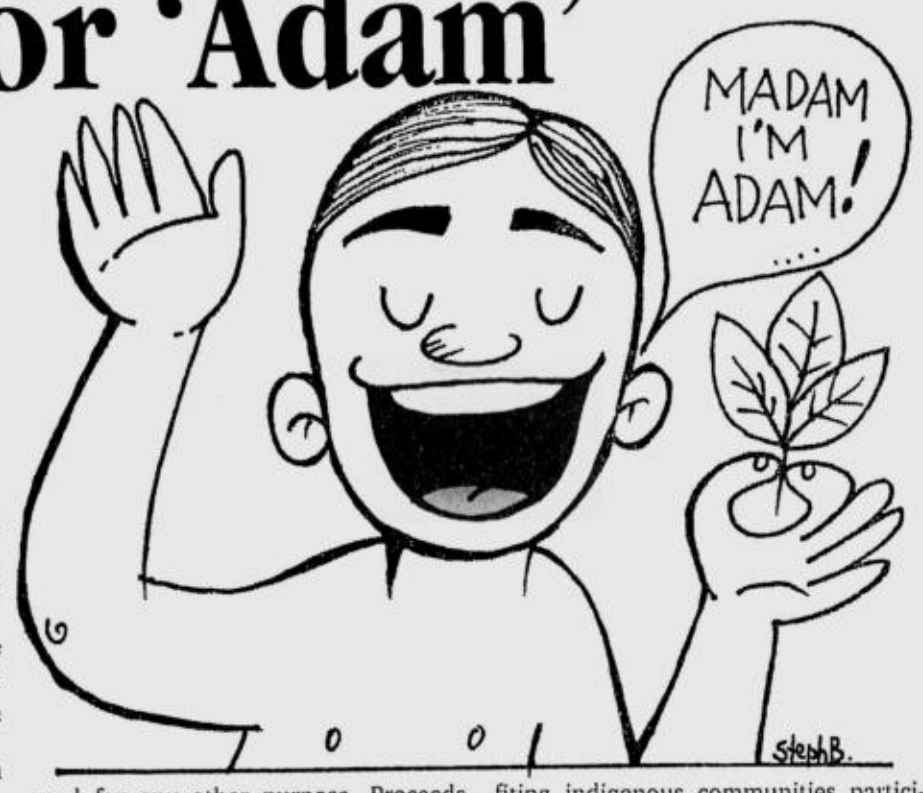
A total of 10 DNA collection centers around the world will obtain samples from indigenous peoples. Wells said the genetic markers in the blood of these groups have remained relatively unchanged for generations.

For the public, there will be kits for sale (at $99), which contain cheek swabs that will be used to scrape the inside of the mouth for a DNA sample. The swabs are then mailed to a central laboratory for analysis.

After four to six weeks, the results of the analysis—accessible only to the participant—will appear on the website www.nationalgeographic.com/genographic behind a password provided in the kit.

Wells said the genetic tests his team would perform on the specimens have been designed to research early human origins and movements and will not be used for any other purpose. Proceeds from the sale of the kits will be channeled back into the project to support additional research and to fund educational and cultural preservation efforts benefiting indigenous communities participating in the research.

"We want to attract participation by being extremely clear about what we do and do not do," Wells said.



Pregnancy and traveling

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

JENNIFER SIA, WHO'S ON HER second trimester of pregnancy, writes to ask if it is still safe for her to travel by air. This is her third pregnancy and she had no problems during her first two pregnancies.

MEDICAL FILES

"Pregnancy should not be an excuse to hibernate, cocoon oneself or develop travel inertia," says Dr. May Ann Lao from the St. Luke's Medical Center. But although pregnancy should not preclude travel, Dr. Lao says the safest time to travel is between weeks 18 and 24, when chances of having a miscarriage or premature labor are nil.

Tips for expectant moms

Dr. Lao writes for the Health & Lifestyle magazine and shares the following tips to make an expectant mother's trip worry-free and pleasurable:

1. Know important dates and numbers. Memorize or write on a notepad the following information: age of gestation, expected date of delivery, last menstrual period, contact numbers of your obstetrician and of person(s) you want to be immediately informed in cases of emergency.

2. Know your medical history. Include in your notepad salient points of your medical history, including allergies to food or medicines, past and present illnesses (hypertension, diabetes mellitus, bronchial asthma, congenital heart disease, coronary artery disease, peptic ulcer, etc.), and the name(s) of doctor(s) attending to your pre-existing medical conditions and preferably, their contact details for reference purposes.

Medicines, immunization

3. If on maintenance medications for a disease, buy enough medicines for the duration you will be out. Pack them in neatly labeled Ziploc bags.

4. Consult your doctor regarding your travel plans. Preferably, have a prenatal checkup to assess fitness for travel. Also inquire what necessary precautions are needed and what drugs are safe to take in cases of travel-related illnesses such as diarrhea, vomiting, dizziness, headaches, cough or fever. Request for prescriptions for emergency drugs. Ask your doctor if there is a need for immunizations.

5. If traveling by air, remember these tips:

• Wear a seatbelt at all times. The lap belt should be secured below the belly and across the hips, lying snugly across the pelvis. Never strap the seat belt across the belly since an intense jolt could cause the placenta to separate from the fetus.

• Avoid air travel during the first trimester. The low air pressure in the plane causes oxygen reduction in the blood, leading to shortness of breath.

• Drink lots of water before and during the flight to avoid dehydration from low cabin humidity. Dehydration can harm the fetus.

• Avoid carbonated drinks, which increase gas formation and may not really enhance hydration.

• Walk around the cabin and stretch your legs every hour or as often as you can to avoid deep venous thrombosis, which may lead to pulmonary embolism. Request for an aisle seat so you can easily get up and move around.

• Do simple leg exercises while sitting down. Extend your heel then gently flex your foot to stretch your calf muscles. Rotate your ankles and wiggle your toes. This helps improve blood circulation.

• Pack your own snacks such as fresh or dried fruit, wheat crackers, fiber bars, string cheese, nuts and other nonperishable food.

Warning signals

6. Do not ignore symptoms. These may be warning signals of complications in pregnancy. Immediately consult your doctor if you develop abdominal pain, chest pain, chills and fever, excessive lower leg edema or excessive weight gain, excessive vomiting and diarrhea, headaches, flashing lights in front of the eyes or double vision.

See a doctor also if there is itching all over, leaking of fluid from the vagina, painful or burning urination accompanied by fever, chills and headache, seizures, swollen or painful leg, sudden shortness of breath, slowing or absence of fetal movements, thirst and infrequent urination and vaginal bleeding.

More math teaching tips

EUREKA!

Queena N. Lee-Chua

WHO SAYS TEACHERS ARE NOT creative? This semester I am teaching Learning Processes in Math and Science to a group of motivated high school math teachers who share the following tips in making this subject more interesting for their students.

Domingo T. Perocho Jr. teaches fourth-year math at the Camalaningan National High School in Cagayan. He tells us how he improves student learning:

• **Relating math to other subjects.** To enhance student learning of fraction operations, I coordinate with other teachers who handle topics that require such knowledge.

For instance, in music, students need to know the number of beats for a dotted quarter or an eighth note. Since a quarter note receives one beat under a 4/4 time signature and a dot after a note indicates that one-half of the previous beat should be added, then a dotted quarter note receives 1 + ½ beats or 3/2 beats; a dotted eighth note receives ½ + ¼, or ¾ beat. This way, I not only teach math but also aid in other subjects.

Arousing curiosity

• **Journal writing.** Reflections and writing tweak the curiosity and challenge the ingenuity of my students. They improve thinking and creativity, not just in math but in real life. After a certain lesson, for example conic sections, I ask my students to reflect, relate and cite analogies relating their life to the lesson in the form of poetry. I read their masterpieces aloud and discuss why they say one thing or the other. Through this I can also check their misconceptions. This activity demands more time, but the rewards are worth it. I give samples to their English teacher for editing, and keep them in my file.

• **Group work.** I group students in such a way that all members in the group can help in making their assignment. Members take turns in presenting answers by using figures of their choice.

Once, a group of girls decided to present their answers by forming a flower. One solution was shown on a petal, another solution on another petal, and so on, forming a flower. The students develop cooperation, resourcefulness, critical thinking, respect for others and a sense of responsibility.

Concrete examples

Cheryl G. Pavericio, who teaches first-year and elective fourth-year math at Marcial O. Anola Memorial School in Albay, talks about the importance of concrete examples:

When I was teaching geometry, I helped students understand the formulas for solids by using concrete manipulatives. I provided them with a cylinder, a cone and a sphere (which I made myself because there were no available materials) and sand to fill the solids with. I let my students experiment with the content of the solids and compare the quantities, and then led them to derive the formulas for volume.

Applying lessons

Michaelangelo Milo L. Lim, who teaches first-year and third-year math at Nabuslot National High School in Oriental Mindoro, says:

I think of practical ways by which my students can apply lessons on real life. One day in December, we were supposed to put up Christmas decorations in the rooms. Since I already taught polygons, I added an extra topic on the construction of cardboard models of regular polyhedrons: tetrahedrons, hexahedrons, octahedrons, dodecahedrons and icosahedrons.

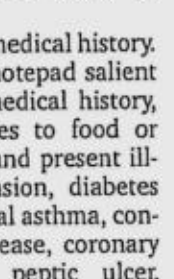
Using cardboard, scotch tape, ruler and protractor, my students came up with delightful creations. I also assigned a *parol* project that used polyhedrons instead of the usual star. I was amazed by my students' creativity! Some *parol* came with tassels, decorations on the edges, and polyhedrons joined to form a robot.

Rating math

Danny A. Asio, who teaches first-year math at Bobontugan National High School in Misamis Oriental, says his students keep him on his toes: On the first day of school, I make my students rate math from 1 (they hate it) to 10 (they love it). Throughout the school year I keep in mind that at the end, their ratings must increase. For me, learning to love math is the first step to doing it well.

Sleeping for science

DISCOVER



Massie Santos Ballon

LAST SEPTEMBER A STUDY IN the Journal of the American Medical Association (Jama) showed that lack of sleep severely affects doctors' responses and ability to function.

Several medical residents from Brown University Medical School who worked overnight in the hospital and had been working 90 hours a week for the last month participated in the study conducted by researchers from the University of Michigan Health System (UMichigan). They found that under these conditions, the residents had slower reaction times and were more likely to make errors and be involved in car accidents because they weren't fully rested.

In the second half of the experiment, the residents were tested again while on more relaxed work schedules and without working overnight prior to the trials. This time, the tests were done both before and after they were given three to four alcoholic beverages. Researchers found that the residents' response times when they were overworked were similar to the response times recorded after they had a few drinks.

The study demonstrates what people have known for years: lack of sleep equals not enough rest equals reduced productivity the next day.

But how much sleep should people get to feel well-rested? Despite the old adage that eight straight hours are required for a full night's sleep, studies have shown that many people get fewer hours of sleep and are as alert and responsive as those who slept longer.

Sleep inertia

Perhaps getting enough sleep isn't the only factor to be considered when it comes to being alert. Perhaps the amount of time it takes someone to become fully alert after waking is equally important. This is the idea behind the paper from researchers at the University of Colorado Boulder.

Kenneth Wright of the Sleep and Chronobiology Laboratory at UC Boulder was the lead author of the paper, which appeared in the Jan. 11 issue of Jama. He refers to the grogginess associated with awakening as "sleep inertia."

The study involved eight men and one woman, with ages ranging from 20 to 41. Participants did not take any drugs, caffeine or alcohol for three weeks prior to the trials to make sure their sleep or lack of it was not influenced by external factors. The volunteers were asked to keep sleep diaries and make sure they all slept approximately eight hours a night during this period.

During the fourth week, the participants spent part of their day getting used to filling out a standardized math worksheet that required them to add up several pairs of randomly generated numbers. At night they continued to get eight hours of sleep.

On the seventh morning, participants were given the test as soon as they awoke. They were kept awake for 26 hours, and took the test several more times throughout the day.

Effect on performance

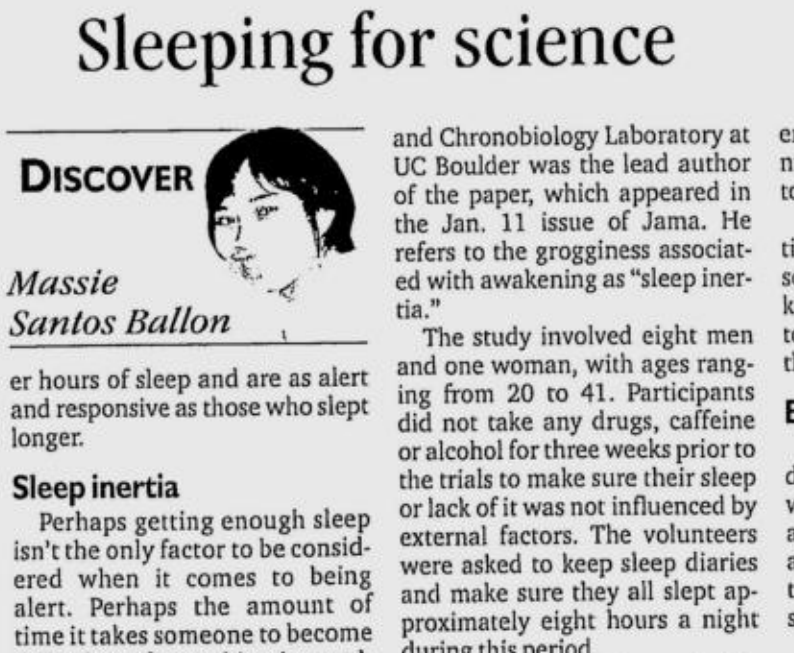
"Cognitive performance immediately on awakening from sleep was worse than performance at all subsequent points measured across 26 hours of sleep deprivation," Wright et al. wrote in their study.

Based on the test scores of the participants, sleep inertia can last from a few minutes to several hours, as evidenced by the lower test scores some participants recorded up until two hours after awakening.

Wright et al. also noted that the amount of sleep one got affected the time it took for sleep inertia to wear off. This might be because people awakened from a deep sleep are groggier than lighter sleepers.

The study was funded by Nasa's National Space Biomedical Research Institute. There are several jobs where people are required to be alert as soon as they awaken, such as astronauts in space who have to deal with emergencies.

Wright et al. suggest that future studies should look into how interrupting naps affect the sleep-deprived, and should involve larger test groups. Any volunteers?



UP offers occupational health and safety course

THE UP MANILA COLLEGE OF Public Health through the Department of Environmental and Occupational Health will hold the 55th postgraduate course in Occupational Health and Safety from April 18 to 26 at the CPH Auditorium on P. Gil Street, Ermita, Manila.

The course is open to physicians and other health professionals. It satisfies the Department of Labor and Employment's training requirement for company physicians, nurses, safety officers, physical therapists, occupational therapists and dentists.

Course coordinator is Dr. Benjamin C. Vitasa. For details call Chit, Isthy, Ruby at 526-5966 or 524-7102.

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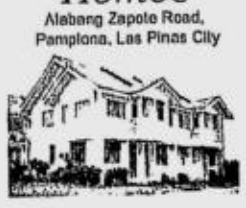

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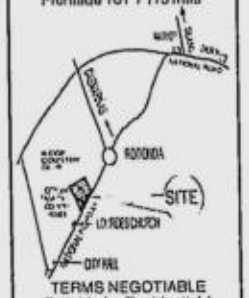

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is hereby given that Alien Certificate with #E157599 on August 6, 1998 & Immigrant Certificate of Residence w/ #326867 of Maria Regina Chee Udasco has been reported lost. (PDI-Jan. 21, 28 & Feb. 4, 2006)

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- Experienced in Network Administration and design, LAN & WAN
- Proficient in Windows NT, XP & Microsoft Exchange
- Preferably 1 year experience in IT specialization

RECEPTIONIST

Female; 23-28 yrs old
- Customer & people-oriented / well-versed in Filipino & English
- Must be computer literate

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Graduate of any 4-yr course
Female/dynamic & resourceful / 25-30 yrs old
- At least 3 yrs experience in business communication
- Must be computer literate; excellent in oral & written communication skills
- Provides administrative & clerical support to senior team members.

COMPANY NURSE

Female RN / 25-30 yrs old
- At least 1 year experience in Hospital Setting
- Must be computer literate/excellent in oral and written communication skills

PRODUCTION & MAINTENANCE TECHNICIAN

Male / 21-25 yrs old
- Graduate of Eng'g Course preferably BSECE
- Technical Vocational Course may apply
- Belongs to first top 10 of the class
- Computer Literate / Excellent command in oral & written

SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT

Associates – Logistics
M/F, At least 23 years old
- Graduate of BSIE, Manufacturing Engineering & Indl Management Engineering from a reputable school.
- Has an in-depth knowledge in Materials Programming/Planning, Inventory Control Purchasing and Warehousing
- Computer literate / has good theoretical background in related disciplines.

FINANCE AND CONTROL ASSOCIATES

M/F 21-28 yrs old
- Graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably CPA
- Proficient in MS Applications, Database
- Logical & Organized

QUALITY ASSURANCE ASSOCIATES

M/F 21-25 yrs old
- Graduate of BS ChE, BS Chem / Comp literate
- Background in related disciplines (Stats & Analytical Method) required

MARKETING RESEARCH SPECIALIST

M/F, Preferably 23-28 yrs old
- Graduate of BSBA Major in Marketing, Economics, Management
- Has an in-depth knowledge in Marketing Research and Analysis
- Knows how to establish comprehensive business plan
- Knows current Business Icons, Innovative
- Excellent command in oral & written
- Computer Literate (MS Office)

AREA SALES MANAGER (GMA, LUZON, VISAYAS & MINDANAO)

M/F, Preferably 33 years old
- Graduate of BSBA and Engineering
- At least 3 yrs min. work experience. Thorough knowledge of BCP an advantage
- Conversationalist, hardworking, confident & assertive
- Must know how to drive
- Open-minded, flexible, can adapt to various management models

KEY ACCOUNT MANAGER

M/F, Preferably 33 years old
- Graduate of BSBA & Engineering
- At least 3 yrs. minimum work experience as supermarket salesman in FMCG
- With good communication skills, hardworking & assertive
- Must know how to drive
- Open-minded, flexible, can adapt to various management models

DISTRIBUTOR MANAGER, EXECUTIVE

M/F, Preferably 33 years old
- Graduate of BSBA & Engineering
- At least 5-8 yrs. work experience in FMCG. Knowledge in BCP, Daily Routine, Territorial Management required
- Willing to be assigned anywhere in the Phils / Achiever in sales w/ excellent comm. skills an advantage
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- Open-minded, flexible, can adapt to various management models

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M/F, Preferably 33 years old
- Minimum of 5 yrs work experience in FMCG
- Graduate of BSBA
- With good communication skills both oral & written; hardworking & assertive
- Must know how to drive
- Open-minded, flexible, can adapt to various management models

DRIVERS

- At least 10 years driving experience

ALL INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY SEND THEIR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ & TRANSCRIPT OF RECORDS TO:

THE HR MANAGER
MAILBOX 77
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MAKATI CITY

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late GEORGE ANGELO G. PADOLINA has been extrajudicially settled by his heirs Elizabeth, George John & Joshua John, all surnamed Padolina under Doc#476, Page#97, Book#XXXII, Series of 2006 before Atty. Benjamin Mata of Makati City.
(PDI-Jan. 28, Feb. 4 & 11, 206)

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late ENCARNACION D. VARONA was extrajudicially settled among heirs with quit claim/waiver of rights as per Doc. No. 123 Page No. 29 Book I Series of 2006 before Notary Public Erlinda C. Reyes of Antipolo City.
PDI-Jan 28, 30 & Feb.6, 2006

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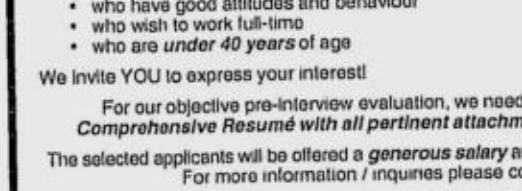

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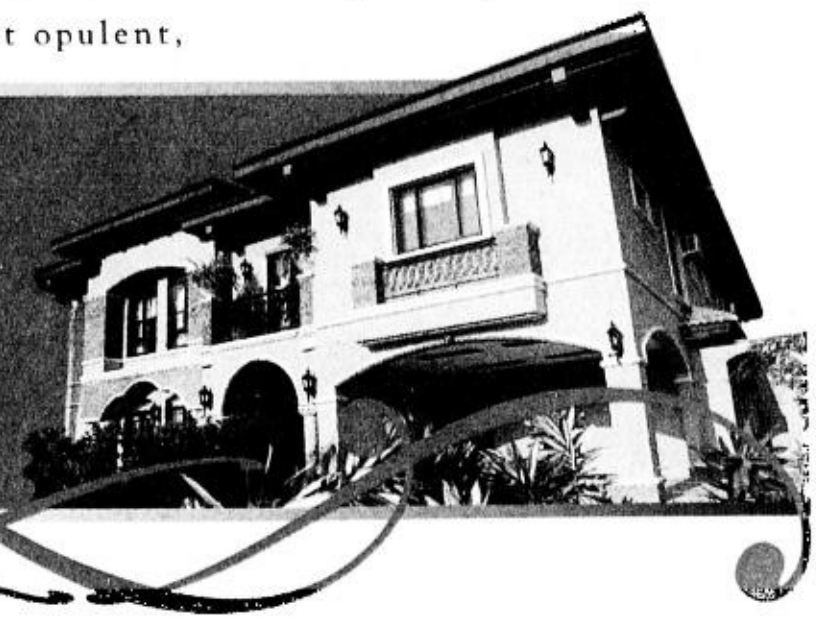
With the Masters Collection, Brittany elevates the design and scale of homes to a grand level, perfect for those who are afforded the luxury of a grand life.



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For a preview of The Masters Collection, the Guiliana model home is available in Portofino.

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ALABANG

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A courtyard: for enjoying the outdoors while indoors

Amenities are swiftly developing as well. The pools, inspired by Roman baths, and the Club House provide for a life of leisure. And soon a commercial area will rise right in between Portofino Heights and Portofino South.

The Italian inspiration, the theme that enriches the Portofino masterplan, is clearly evident in the homes' sun-drenched colors, stone cladding, arches and other architectural details.

The location makes for easy access to the nearby commercial areas, business districts, leisure destinations, schools and hospitals.

With the enclaves and amenities, the central location, and its unique property-wide theme, Brittany puts together all the masterful strokes that make Portofino a masterpiece in property development.

See a masterpiece in the works.

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ALABANG

SOME THINGS ARE CLEARLY VALUABLE FROM THE VERY BEGINNING.

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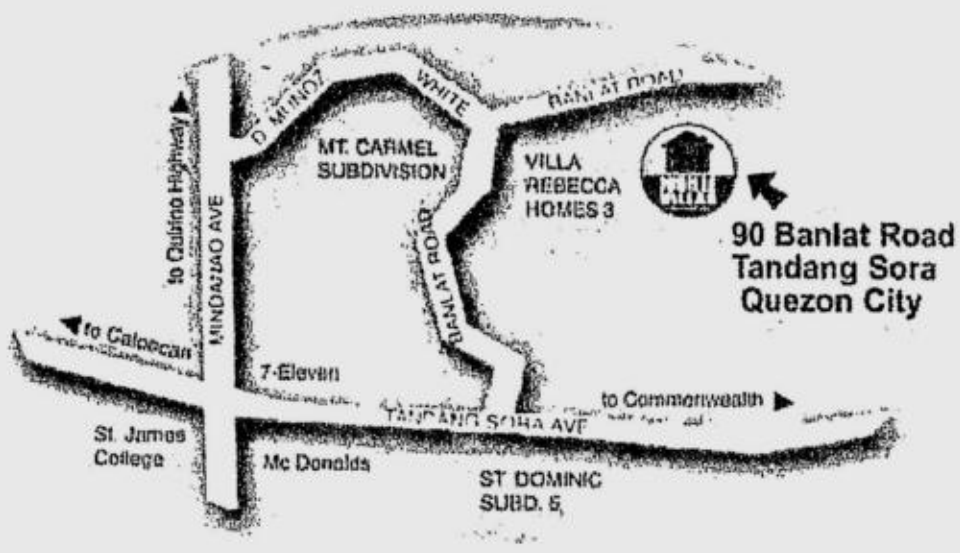

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John 3:16

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ERRATUM

In the advertisement of **CITY OF TAGUM, PROVINCE OF DAVAO DEL NORTE** Re: Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid, published in the Classified Section of Philippine Daily Inquirer last January 15 and 22, 2006, the telephone number was inadvertenly printed as (084) 218-8639 instead of **(084) 218-3639.**

Our apologies.

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OBITUARIES

The Francisca Reyes Aquino Memorial Foundation
sadly announces the passing of

CARMEN FERRER ADEVOSO

Wife of the late Labor Sec. Col. Terry Adevoso *and* Former Division Supervisor of City Schools, Manila

She peacefully joined her Creator on Friday, January 20, 2006 at 5:00AM in Cincinnati City, Ohio.

We request readers to pray for the repose of her soul.

We lovingly remember our Papa on his Twenty Fifth Death Anniversary

OSCAR VENTANILLA, SR.

a consummate entrepreneur, outstanding councilor, and a benevolent father,
of Cabanatuan City who died on January 29, 1981

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow at the following churches:

1.	**Saint Nicholas Tolentine Cathedral** *Cabanatuan City*	All masses
2.	**Our Lady of Fatima Parish** *Philamlife Homes, Las Piñas, M.M.*	All masses
3.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** *Multinational Village, Parañaque, M.M.*	All masses
4.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** *Rosario Complex, San Pedro, Laguna*	All masses
5.	**Sto. Niño de Cebu Parish** *Biñan, Laguna*	All masses
6.	**Parish of the Holy Sacrifice** *U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City*	All masses
7.	**Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish** *Katipunan Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*	All masses
8.	**St. James the Great** *Alabang Village, Muntinlupa*	All masses
9.	**St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Parish** *Ayala Alabang Village*	All masses
10.	**Mary Help of Christians Parish** *Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque*	All masses
11.	**Immaculate Conception Parish** *Concepcion, Mankina City*	6:00 A.M.
12.	**St. Basil the Great Church** *Brecksville, Ohio, U.S.A.*	9:00 A.M.

His surviving children **Gloria, Oscar Jr., Rosalinda**; sons and daughters-in-law; and grandchildren, request relatives, friends and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of his soul.

WE DESIGN OBITUARY FOR FREE.

ELINO "LINO" C. ALTAMIRANO

(April 23, 1951 – January 22, 2006)
of Pangil, Laguna

His wife **Gigi S. Altamirano**; children **Hubert** and **Robert**; and all relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 3-B, Nacional Memorial Homes, 264 Gregorio Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment today, Saturday, January 28, 2006 at La Loma Cemetery, Caloocan City after 9:00 a.m. Mass.

"I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me will live even though he dies, and whoever believes in Me will never die."

ANGEL A. RESPICIO

of Laoag City
UP Law '51

peacefully joined his Creator on January 22, 2006 at the age of 85.

His beloved wife **EUFEMIA TEJADA SALES**; children and in-laws **Leonides** and Myra, **Emma, Orlando** and Mel, **Angel Jr.** and Gina, **Benjamin** and Odessa, and **Rogelio**; brother **Juan**; grandchildren, other relatives and friends request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at their residence at M.H. Del Pilar St., Bgy. 29, Laoag City.

Interment will be on Wednesday, February 1, 2006 after the 8:00 a.m. Mass.

On his *NINTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY,*

we lovingly remember

***DADDY,* YOU ARE**
***FOREVER* IN OUR HEARTS...**
***SORELY MISSED* BY ALL OF US.**

ATTY. ROMEO REYES TICZON, SR.

(HUSBAND AND BEST FRIEND OF THE LATE ENCARNACION "NENA" LOVINA)

1997 GOLDEN SCROLL AWARDEE FOR MEDICINE AND ALLIED SCIENCES
(PARANGAL NG BAYAN AWARDS)

1997 GINTONG AMA AWARDEE (PARANGAL NG BAYAN AWARDS)

1997 GOLDEN LEADERSHIP AWARDEE FOR BUSINESS AND HERBAL MEDICINE
(SOCIAL ACTION & CIVIC MOVEMENT, INC.)

CORPORATE LAWYER, HERBAL SCIENTIST, AUTHOR OF ELEVEN (11) HERBAL MANUALS AND ONE (1) HERBAL ENCYCLOPEDIA, REALTOR, PHILANTROPIST

who died in the Grace of our Lord on ***January 29, 1997, 12:40 p.m.*** *at the age of* ***79****.*

Holy Masses will be offered at the following churches tomorrow, ***January 29, 2006****:*

Immaculate Concepcion Parish ..... ***6:00 AM***
P. Burgos St., Antipolo, Rizal

St. Francis Parish Church ..... ***6:00 AM***
Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City

Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Parish ..... ***6:00 AM***
Doña J. Rodriguez St., New Manila, Quezon City

Sanctuario de San Antonio Parish ..... ***6:15 AM***
McKinley Road, Forbes Park, Makati City

St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Church ..... ***6:15 AM***
Magallanes Village, Makati City

Parish of Our Lady of Fatima ..... ***6:30 AM***
Cor. Rodriguez Ave., & Capinpin St., Bangkal, Makati

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish ..... ***6:30 AM***
Kalayaan, Bel-Air II, Makati City

Redemptorist Church ..... ***6:45 AM***
Baclaran, Parañaque City

National Shrine of the Most Holy Rosary ..... ***7:00 AM***
Sto. Domingo, Quezon City

Sanctuario de San Jose ..... ***7:15 AM & 6:15 PM***
Greenhills, Mandaluyong City

St. John Bosco Parish ..... ***7:30 AM***
A. Arnaiz Avenue cor. Amorsolo St., Makati City

Minor Basilica of the Black Nazarene ..... ***5:00 PM***
Quiapo, Manila

Harrison Plaza Chapel ..... ***5:00 PM***
2/F, Harrison Plaza Shopping City, Malate, Manila

Christ the King Parish ..... ***6:00 PM***
Green Meadows Avenue, Quezon City

Mary the Queen Parish ..... ***6:00 PM***
Madison St., Greenhills, San Juan

Our Lady of the Assumption Parish ..... ***6:00 PM***
Asuncion St., Malate, Manila

Shrine of Mary, Queen of Peace ..... ***7:30 PM***
Our Lady of EDSA, Quezon City

The CHILDREN, IN-LAWS, GRANDCHILDREN and GREAT GRANDCHILDREN,

- ***JULIETA***
- ***ROMEO, JR.*** *and* ***LEONY DASCO*** *and their children ROSSANA and LITO VELASCO, ARLENE, VINCENT, DR. ADOLF, JULIUS and KATHERINE (nee LACUNA), grandchildren RUTH ISABELLE, JULIO LUIS GABRIEL and KATRINA BEATRIZ.*
- ***OPHELIA*** *and* ***BENNY T. CLEMENTE*** *and their daughters JACLYN, RACHELLE and SUZANNE*
- ***OTHELLO*** *and* ***LIZA ROÑO*** *and their children RAYMOND, DR. MA. LUISA, MILAGROS, MELISSA ANN, grandchildren TANYA ISABEL, ROMEO RODRIGO III, and MIGUELA ISABELLE.*
- ***BELEN*** *and* ***ANTONIO V. MARTEL, JR.*** *and their daughter MARIA ANTONIA*
- ***ROSSINA***
- ***LOURDES*** *and* ***EDGAR MARTIN*** *and their children MIGUEL, ANTONIO and DEIRDRÉ*
- ***PORTIA*** *and* ***RAMON B. SANTOS*** *and their children RAPHAEL, PAULINE and GABRIEL*
- ***RUBEN*** *(deceased),*

BROTHERS IN LAW, *TEDDY H. LOVINA*
BERT ACOSTA and
NONIE M. LOVINA,

SISTERS IN LAW, *DING MATIAS Vda. de LOVINA*
SYLVIA RICARD-LOVINA
NING LOVINA-VILLAR
NORMA DE GUZMAN Vda de LOVINA
ISABEL VALLES-LOVINA and
MARYLOU PRIETO Vda. de LOVINA

WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND THEIR SINCEREST THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO CONTINUE TO KEEP HIM IN THEIR PRAYERS.

BUSINESS

Economist says political woes may weaken peso

Sees local currency dropping to 56 to $1

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE STRONG PESO WILL NOT LAST AND THE local currency may even fall to 56 to a dollar due to the lingering political tension and external factors like the erratic crude oil prices, according to economist Bernardo Villegas.

Still, Villegas said he believed that the peso would average at about 54 to $1 this year as families of overseas Filipino workers unload their dollars once the exchange rate depreciates.

"The OFWs who hold on to their dollars because they do not want to exchange at P52 will also prevent the peso from hitting 56," said the senior vice president of the University of Asia and the Pacific in a speech Thursday before members of the Makati Business Club.

The peso yesterday closed at P52.385 from P52.44 on Thursday.

Villegas estimated that of the more than $11 billion that Filipinos abroad sent last year, about 30 percent were still being kept by their families here, waiting for a more "favorable" exchange rate.

The UA&P economist, who is also a member of the MBC board of trustees, said that whatever happens on the political front this year, the economy would still manage to grow by about 5 percent, or slightly higher than the estimated 4.7-percent expansion in 2005.

The growth, he said, would come from increased spending of the private sector and the government as well as improvements in the agriculture sector due to a more favorable weather.

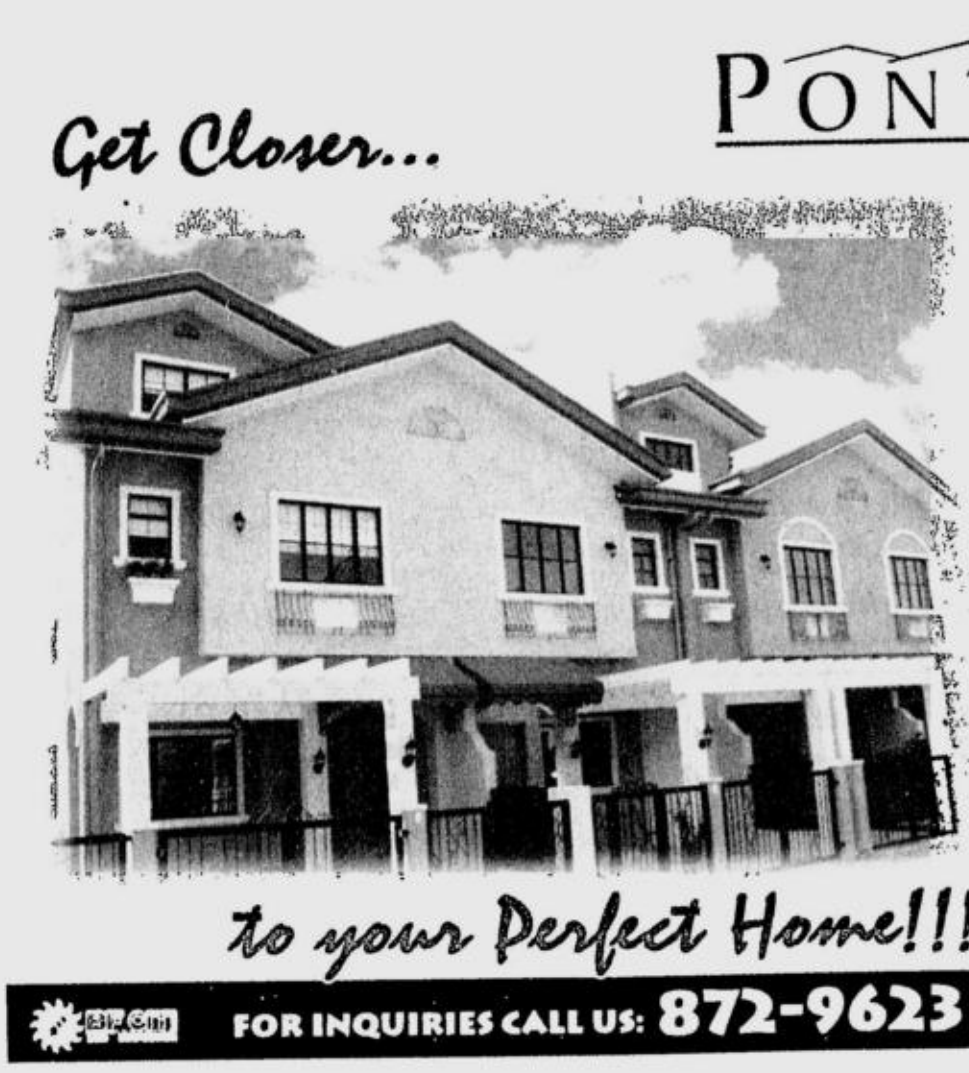
Among the high-growth industries this year are manpower exports, tourism, business process outsourcing, electronics and semiconductors, high-value furniture as well as garments and fashion good, food and agribusiness, wellness and beauty services, retirement villages, mining and education.

Villegas said the engines of consumption were growing and could fuel some growth in the economy despite the political upheavals.

"Whatever happens in politics will have an impact on the long term. But for this year, it is not going to affect us much," Villegas said.

In fact, he said inflation should drop to about 6 percent this year from 7.6 percent in 2005. World oil prices will eventually stabilize at a range of $55-$60 a barrel.

Villegas said the benchmark treasury bill rate should average at about 5.7 percent in 2006 against 6.2 percent last year. But he said he was concerned that the Philippines could never achieve its full economic potential unless there was political stability.



Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/manufacturers/distributors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project.

Name of Project/Brief Description	16 sets (2 units/set) Automatic Door Operator
Approved Budget for the Contract	P7,998,576.00
Contract Duration	Within ninety (90) calendar days after receipt of the approved Contract

Prospective bidders should have undertaken a similar project within the last five (5) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post-Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed as follows:

Activities	Schedule
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	25 January - 08 February 2006
2. Pre-bid Conference	17 February 2006 - 3:00 PM
3. Opening of Bids	28 February 2006 - 2:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	) These shall be in accordance with the
5. Post-qualification	) prescribed periods allowed in the
6 Notice of Award	) Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A) of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount of P4,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Vice-Chairman

(PDI - Jan. 28, 2006)

South Forbes'
5 Resort Components

Why are more and more wise investors and homeowners choosing South Forbes? The answers lie in these five interesting components of this world-class golf resort city.

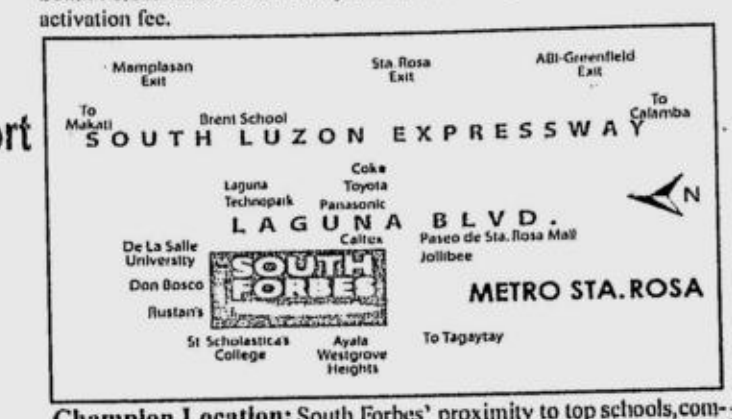
This luxurious two-level infinity pool is an exclusive resort amenity for Golf View Terraces residents.

Experience resort-inspired living at the South Forbes Bali Mansions.

South Forbes is the first and only one to offer free golf membership at no activation fee.

1. **Free golf membership.** All lot and condominium unit owners are automatic members of the 18-hole, world-class South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club. Good news: Construction of the South Forbes golf course is NOW IN FULL SWING!
2. **Access to other world-class golf courses.** South Forbes member-residents can play and get huge discounts in 42 world-class golf courses worldwide through the exclusive golf club of IMG SportsClub.
3. **Exclusive clubhouses and amenities.** South Forbes is the first to offer themed enclaves: the Mediterranean Villas, Bali Mansions, and Tokyo Mansions. Best of all, each South Forbes community has its own clubhouse a few steps away from your home.
4. **Business & resort hotel.** Astoria Plaza Sta. Rosa will serve the business and conference needs of multinational companies. Relax and unwind at its spa and wellness center.
5. **Resort Homes.** South Forbes Bali Mansions epitomizes the best in resort-inspired living, at a monthly amortization of as low as P20,000. Or, get a unit at Golf View Terraces and have the fairways of the South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club as your perfectly manicured backyard.

Choose the resort lifestyle at South Forbes. Inquire NOW!



Champion Location: South Forbes' proximity to top schools, commercial centers, and technoparks makes it a blue chip investment.

Call 635-8108 or 636-4647 or visit www.southforbes.com.

PROPERTY

Developers assure homebuyers of consistently safe homes

By Tessa R. Salazar

HAVE CONDO UNIT buyers or house hunters ever crossed their mind that in developers' haste to fill up the demand, some building processes are being compromised, especially in the aspect of building safety?

Builders, of course, are quick to say this isn't the case.

Safety standards

"While developers scurry to fill up this demand, building processes, especially safety aspects, will never be compromised," said ERA Philippines country president and CEO Eric Soriano. ERA is a real estate consulting firm whose parent company is based in Singapore. Its local clientele includes Megaworld Properties.

Soriano stressed that strict implementation and adherence to the provisions of various national and local building codes ensures developers' compliance to safety standards. Buyers are assured of quality products delivered on time and built to specifications.

"I do not believe this is happening as there are still the safeguards promulgated by the Building Code as well as HLURB rules and regulations, which protect the buying public," said Marivic Añonuevo, vice president and head of Ayala Land Inc.'s leisure and lifestyle communities.

She added that the real challenge would be to ensure not just a consistent set of regulations but consistent enforcement as well.

Assurance

Danilo E. Ignacio, general manager for Robinsons Land Corp.'s high-rise buildings division, assures occupants of RLC development that they could sleep in peace every night.

"Established developers, such as Robinsons Land Corp, are committed to complying with the Building Code to ensure safety and structural integrity of the buildings," he said.

Asked what structures would be in demand this year, developers are hard put to choose one. Instead, they say vertical and horizontal developments would be robust.

Añonuevo said that both would be in demand as there seems to be no distinct trend emerging favoring one form of development over the other.

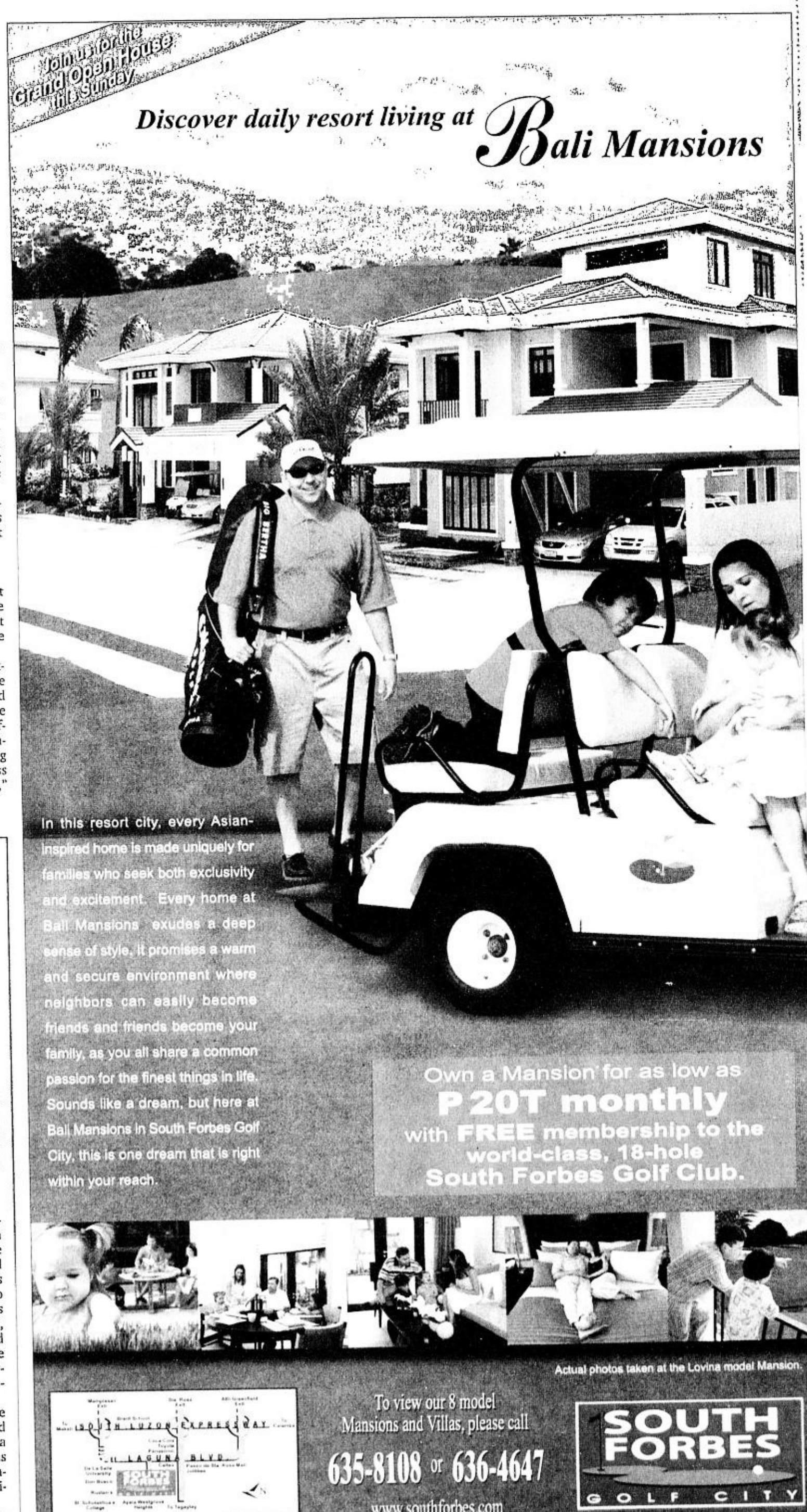
"What is more striking," she said, "is the differences in price points, as of course the more affordable units, whether horizontal or vertical, are sold at a faster rate. The high-end market continues to be a stable niche for Ayala Land Inc., however."

Ignacio agreed that horizontal and vertical developments would continue to enjoy robust demands.

Vertical is 'in'

Soriano, however, stressed that vertical developments would be more in demand this year as most of the horizontal developments are far from the cities.

With rising fuel costs, he explained, people understand the need to live within the city and the only viable and affordable options are condominiums. "After all, our OFWs are quite familiar with condo living, having been exposed to world-class communities in foreign shores," he said.



Last few residential lots at Laguna BelAir South Drive

WHEN IT COMES TO INVESTing in real estate, middle-income families are more discriminating than ever. And one all-important consideration is how much freedom they have to design and build their dream home.

For leading township developer Empire East Land Holdings Inc., giving home buyers what they want has proved to be a sound idea. Demand has been strong for choice residential lots at its Laguna BelAir South Drive, which allows lot buyers the opportunity to construct an American-themed home according to their requirements.

Launched in September 2005, Laguna BelAir South Drive offers residential lots ranging from 132 to 277 square meters. In barely four months, the project is 90.8 percent sold, with only eight out of 87 lots remaining.

Located in Laguna BelAir 2's Phase 5, in front of the Sta. Rosa-Tagaytay National Highway, Laguna BelAir South Drive is set for completion by 2007.

First-class facilities

Contributing to the project's strong market appeal is the exciting array of first-class facilities to be found in Laguna BelAir, the most successful township south of Manila.

Just across the site is the Mother of Perpetual Help Parish Church, along with a row of specialty shops, restaurants and cafés. Also nearby are the Laguna BelAir School and a recreational complex featuring a clubhouse with gym and badminton court, a swimming pool, basketball-tennis-volleyball courts and children's playground.

Prime location

With the project's prime location, residents can reach Makati and Alabang via the South Luzon Expressway and Metro Manila Skyway in less than an hour. And closer to home are top ecozones such as the Laguna Technopark, Carmelray Industrial Park and the Light Industry and Science Park as well as the manufacturing plants of Proctor and Gamble, Fujitsu and Coca-Cola.

Equally accessible are the Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center, Paseo de Santa Rosa Mall and schools such as Don Bosco, De La Salle Canlubang and the upcoming University of Santo Tomas.

For more information on how you can make your American-inspired dream home a reality at Laguna BelAir South Drive, call 867-8937 to 41.

Green architecture and postdisaster reconstruction

GREEN ARCHITRENDS

Amado de Jesus

NATURAL HAZARDS SUCH AS EARTHquakes, floods, landslides and even volcanic eruptions have one thing in common. They cause significant damage to society in terms of loss of life and property, not to mention environmental losses. The recent tsunami in the Indian Ocean, the earthquake in Indonesia and the hurricane in New Orleans are but a few examples that attest to this fact.

The devastation brought about by these natural hazards has caused extensive reconstruction. Understanding the nature and extent posed by a disaster is vital in determining the kind of inputs needed for the postdisaster reconstruction.

What is postdisaster reconstruction?

It is a form of development that aims to raise the standard of living higher than what existed before the disaster. This involves not only building shelters but also restoring the social, cultural and economic structures to ensure the sustainability of the community.

Relief mentality

In many calamity sites worldwide, some organizations and government agencies involved in reconstruction have developed what is called the "relief mentality." In their desire to uplift the conditions in the affected area they rush reconstruction efforts while completely disregarding the sentiments and needs of the affected populace.

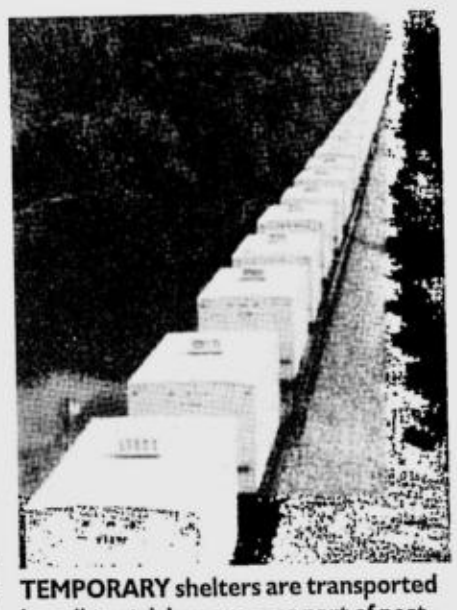
They build rows and rows of identical houses with designs that have little to do with the way people lived before the disaster. Instead of pedestrian-scaled walkways and courtyards, endless walkways are built. Materials from distant places are used and none of the local craftsmen are employed or consulted to build the shelters. In some cases the materials are too expensive to build without subsidy or financial assistance.

Another problem is the massive relocation of the inhabitants affected. So-called "experts" declare that the area is not safe for habitation. They also declare that the inhabitants should live far from the disaster area.

In other cases, temporary shelters are badly and hastily built to provide immediate relief to the inhabitants. This means cheap structures made of inferior building materials that do not last very long or are difficult and expensive to maintain. Eventually the shelters fall apart and the quality of life in the area breaks down. Finally, the people abandon their newly built houses, which cost so much just to return to their old damaged ones.

This concept of temporary shelters is now being rejected by some sectors since they notice that "temporary" shelters have a way of becoming permanent structures.

To avoid many of these problems, recent events have brought about the development of green and sustainable guidelines for a successful postdisaster reconstruction. Some of these are the following:



TEMPORARY shelters are transported by rail to stricken areas as part of postdisaster reconstruction efforts.

• **Local expertise.** Before using imported skills and materials, effort must be made to check the availability of locally available expertise and building material within the community. This will ensure that an indigenous and therefore a familiar form of architecture will be built. This will also reinforce the technical capability of the local workers for reconstruction.

• **Community involvement.** There should be a system that will allow the inhabitants to get involved in shaping their community based on their needs with the assistance of technical and material support. This can be done through a reconstruction committee at the village level. It has been shown that taking the people's needs into consideration and getting them involved in the process have brought about successful reconstruction.

• **Uniform policies.** By establishing uniform policies and standards, an equitable distribution of financial and material resources should be provided for all the inhabitants regardless of their social, religious and political inclinations. This can reduce possible conflicts on one hand and encourage more cooperation for the good of the reconstruction efforts, on the other hand.

• **Relocation.** Many reconstruction projects require massive relocation of entire villages. This system seldom works. Massive relocation has often meant dislocation and disorientation by many of the affected population. What is preferred instead is selective relocation of parts of the community away from danger zones but remaining in the same general area. If relocation is found to be really necessary, it is important that the affected population be consulted and provided with feasible resettlement choices.

Design, construction practices

The development phase of the reconstruction provides the perfect opportunity to assess and study how modifications can be made on existing designs of buildings, especially of homes, so that they are earthquake-resistant or typhoon-resistant, economical and culturally adapted to the locality. The study can also include availability of local materials and craftsmen and workers who could be involved in the reconstruction.

For earthquake-prone areas, concrete dwellings should have solid foundations, strong walls connected to each other and lightweight roofing materials. Cylindrically shaped dwellings are also strong structures against earthquakes.

• **Linkages.** It is also during this phase that important linkages are established that can help in the reconstruction efforts, whether they are government agencies, or nongovernment organization (NGO) groups.

• **Transition period.** The normal urge to rush and bring instant relief has brought about costly mistakes in the past. What is important is for people to settle into homes that are secure and resistant to future disasters.

A MODEL house by Habitat for Humanity features a kit-of-parts building system for the reconstruction efforts in the hurricane-struck region.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

What they really need

A very significant finding regarding the needs of the affected population is that they do not need houses as much as the restoration of the economic infrastructure. They are more concerned with restoring their source of livelihood rather than assistance in the construction of new houses. Once they are economically strong they can be more active participants in the reconstruction process.

The ongoing reconstruction efforts in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina (with property damage estimated at $75 billion) provide a most challenging undertaking even for a country as rich and powerful as America. The planning process has already begun and with its vast resources, America will transform New Orleans into a better place to live and work.

How well can we cope with a similar disaster? Perhaps this is a good time for our country to develop an efficient and updated disaster-preparedness plan. After all we are visited yearly by more than a dozen typhoons.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadodejesus@gmail.com.

Crown Asia's Mille Luce: living in sensible luxury

THE BEGINNING OF ANOTHER YEAR IS the perfect opportunity to start building a comfortable and secure future for your family, and the time to reap life's rewards from last year's labor. But acquiring a beautiful life for your family entails greater lengths of time spent on hard work and wise choices coupled with veritable investments.

After celebrating 10 years of a lion's share of sold out success, the country's biggest home builder Crown Asia is all set for its next golden decade. With the expertise of creating enclaves of timeless designs and ingenious architecture, Crown Asia delivers yet another residential community of sensible luxury—Mille Luce at Antipolo, Rizal.

Mille Luce's (meaning "a thousand lights" in Italian) location amid the greenest and highest peak of Antipolo makes it a "haven" between the stars and city lights. A quick drive home from a tiring day at the workplace becomes a relaxing experience as thriving foliage and landscaped surroundings greet you.

During the daytime, a sloping lot crowned with a linear peak at Mille Luce allows a view of Metro Manila's skyline and Laguna de Bay. Once the sun sets, residents can take advantage of Antipolo's altitude to get a glimpse of the vibrant metropolitan lights which look like a thousand stars.

Mille Luce's quaint neighborhood becomes more ideal for raising a family with its secure site, expansive outdoors where children can frolic, constant cool breeze and the rare treat of breathing in fresh air without having to leave the metro.

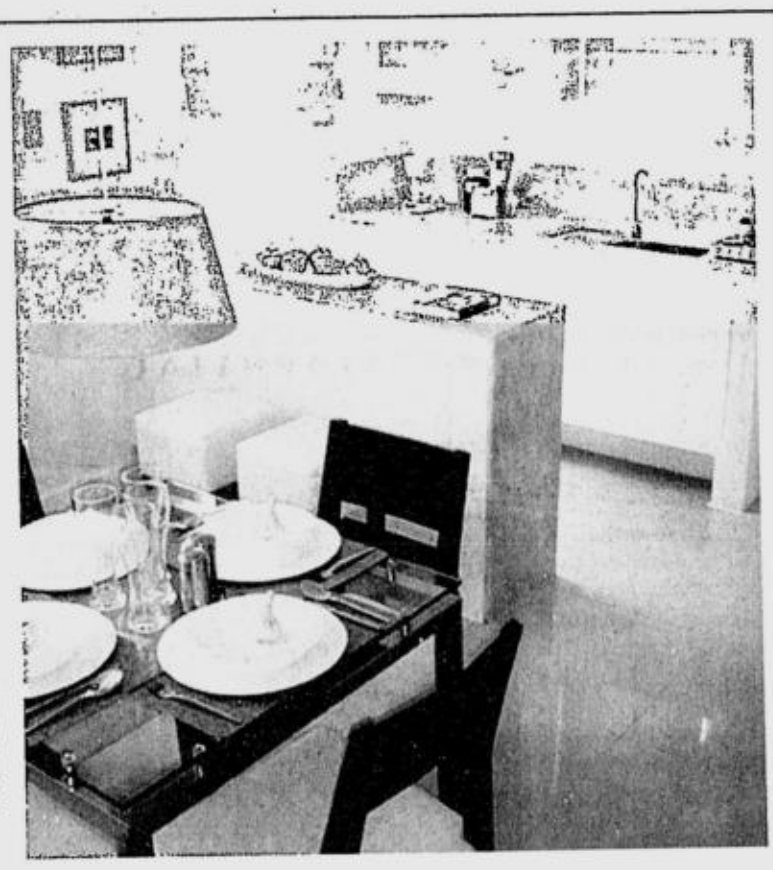
The Italian-inspired selection of model homes at Mille Luce provides the height of living at sensible costs:

• **Portia.** With maximized living space on a minimum of 80-square-meter lot, the Portia suits young couple's wishing to begin a new life. It has three bedrooms, two toilets and baths, living and dining areas, kitchen, lanai and carport.

THE LIVING room's comfortable design and wide windows allow residents to enjoy the constant cool breeze at Mille Luce.

• **Sophia.** The distinct design of the Sophia suits growing families with a minimum lot area of 95 sq m. It has three bedrooms, three toilets and baths, living room, dining room, spacious kitchen, balcony, lanai, carport and maid's room. The Sophia's tower design provides the master's bedroom with space for a sitting area with wide windows.

• **Dione.** With intricate design accentuating the downhill contours of Antipolo, the Dione boasts of a cathedral ceiling of functional esthetics with better ventilation, distinct details and a sense of flowing space with its "open below" feature. It has a minimum lot area of 104 sq m with a master's bedroom with own walk-in closet and toilet and bath, two bedrooms, two toilets and baths, spacious dining and living areas, kitchen, balcony, lanai, porch, carport and maid's room with toilet and bath.



AN INVITING aand spacious dining room and kitchen is achieved with ingenuous architecture.

THE INTRICATE details and earth tones used in the master's bedroom creates a luxurious retreat.

• **Umbriel.** As Dione's uphill counterpart, the Umbriel also features a cathedral ceiling and open below design. It has a minimum of 104-sq-m lot area.

• **Europa.** Large families will find Europa a luxurious option with its bigger living areas and fine details with its minimum lot area of 141 sq m. The master's bedroom of the Europa has its own toilet and bath and a balcony wrapped around the exterior. It also features two bedrooms, two toilets and baths, roomy living and dining areas, kitchen, family room with a lovely window seat, lanai, porch, carport and maid's room.

Mille Luce also offers four well-defined clusters with different living configurations to address the varying budgets, needs and tastes of its residents:

• **Porte Porteze.** Named after a famous commercial area in Rome, Mille Luce's commercial area brings practical conveniences within the reach of its homeowners. The surrounding old mango trees provide vast shades ideal for shopping around the vicinity and leisure walks.

• **Pastorale.** Allocated for single-detached homes, the Pastorale is adjacent to the roadside and situated amid the orchard's most abundant growth. Price starts at P2.9-6 million.

• **L' Altra.** Another cluster found at the highest peak of Mille Luce, the L' Altra nestles terraced, single-detached homes. Each unit at L' Altra features an inner courtyard perfect for experiencing the cool outdoors within the privacy of your own home. Price starts at P8-10 million.

• **La Scala.** A cul-de-sac cluster of multiple family dwellings, the La Scala evokes the feeling of belonging to a close-knit community while maintaining each family's privacy. The area is gated for exclusivity and added security.

Though tucked away from the hassles of the metropolis, Mille Luce is conveniently located on M.L. Quezon Avenue and is a quick 30-minute drive from the business and commercial district of Ortigas. Discover the height of sensible living when you visit Mille Luce. Property previews may be arranged by calling Crown North at 634-9001 and 634-9002. You may also visit its website at www.crownasia.com.ph for more details.

GREENBELT at night

PANORAMIC view of the San Lorenzo Tower

A view worth waking up to

PEOPLE OFTEN GO ON ON OUT-OF-town weekend trips in order to enjoy breathtaking views of nature in the highlands. At least for a few hours, they are relieved of their cares and feel like they're on top of the world.

Just imagine what it would be like to wake up to that feeling very single morning, right inside your own bedroom.

Panoramic view

The Residences at Greenbelt is the country's premier and only residential address to be part of the Greenbelt lifestyle center. Its three towers—Laguna, San Lorenzo and Manila—will enrich the lives of city dwellers by bringing greenery and sky gardens right into their own home.

Enthuse your senses with a panoramic view of the mountains and bay beyond, as well as the lush green park landscape of Greenbelt below. Few buildings in Makati can claim a view worth waking up to.

In addition, right below your prestigious address is everything you can possibly need—food, entertainment, shopping and even work. Engage in an energetic workout, while watching the dawn of a new day. By nightfall, delight in the lights and sounds of Makati's pulsating city life, or retreat to sweet slumber as a blanket of stars serves as your backdrop.

Extension to the outdoors

Many of the units at The Residences at Greenbelt will have balconies and bay windows, your ticket to an extension of the open interior environment to the outdoors. The units of the San Lorenzo Tower in particular afford an easy, unobstructed glance of either the breathtaking Makati skyline or the lush greenery of the San Lorenzo Village, all the way to Manila bay and the south.

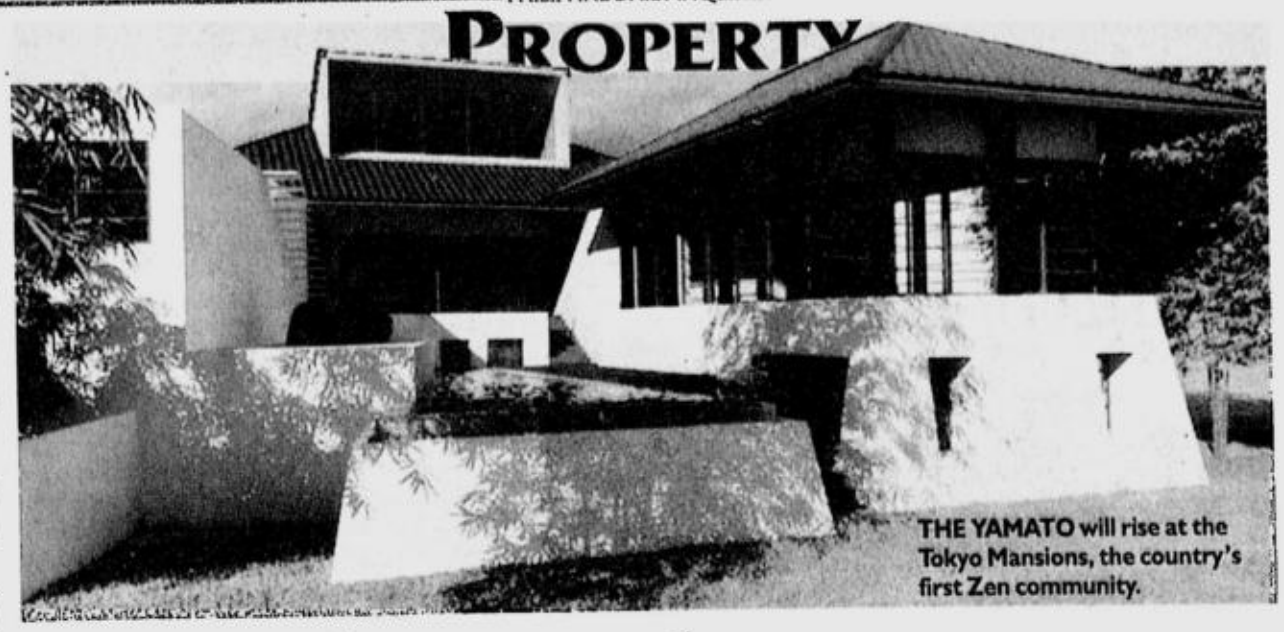
What awaits you in your own backyard is an impressive array of full-scale, luxurious podium amenities exclusive for your own use.

Your new home will be a sure haven where you can experience life's greatest pleasures, with the most significant people around you.

To know more about The Residences at Greenbelt, please call 728-7000, e-mail ayala-sales@ayala-land.com.ph or visit www.ayala-land.com.ph. Model units available for viewing at the third level, Greenbelt 3.

THIS playful boy's room was inspired by the Mediterranean Sea.

A NATIVE woven breakfast area and an ornate Asian woodcarving blend well with the European-designed MFI kitchen at South Forbes Bali Mansions.



THE YAMATO will rise at the Tokyo Mansions, the country's first Zen community.

THE SIMPLE design of this dining room at Tokyo Mansions elevates dining to a spiritual exercise.

MEMBER-RESIDENTS will enjoy preferred access and discounted rates at the Nirwana Bali Golf Club in Indonesia.

South Forbes: The best of East and West

THE BEST DESIGNS OF THE East and the best themes of the West come together for the most discriminating home buyers in one perfect address: South Forbes Golf City in Metro Sta. Rosa.

To the left of South Boulevard, this rising city's main artery, lies the charming homes at the South Forbes Mediterranean Villas. Home buyers can check out four romantic homes inspired by the allure of the Spanish-Mediterranean coast. Taking the cue from the lovely homes they have visited in Europe and the United States, top interior designers Ivy and Cynthia Almario crafted golden interiors for the living and dining rooms and lovely master's bedrooms for the model Villas.

To complete the best of the West, South Forbes will soon launch another European-themed village that will further excite and create buzz in the market, according to Cathay Land president Jeffrey Ng.

Asian design

To the right of South Boulevard are the South Forbes Mansions, which epitomize the best in Asian design. Now fully developed are four model mansions at the resort-inspired Bali Mansions, bringing the number of South Forbes model units to eight. The largest, Nusa Dua, was designed by the Almario sisters according to an "East meets West" theme. A Milanese shaped Italian sofa, for instance, mixes well with the native woven chairs in the living room.

South Forbes recently launched the Tokyo Mansions, where residents can experience tranquility and serenity every day. Simple, straight lines and dark woods contrasting with immaculately white backgrounds characterize the designs for two model mansions: the Meiji and Yamato. Both will rise near the Tokyo Mansions Clubhouse, which features a three-level infinity pool and a four-story viewing deck to calm both the mind and body.

2 new projects

Two other new projects at South Forbes were inspired by the Asian lifestyle. The Esplanade on South Boulevard perfectly mixes commercial spaces at the ground floor and residential units at the upper levels. The modern architectural designs of Singapore inspired the design of this building which has the shop houses.

Units at the Golf View Terraces, meanwhile, have been designed according to a Modern Zen concept, so residents will better appreciate the magnificent view of the South Forbes fairways. The South Forbes Golf Club was designed by no other than Asia's leading golf course designer, the International Management Group (IMG).

Whatever your fancy for a home, be it a Western or Eastern design, South Forbes will likely have something that will suit your family's lifestyle needs. One thing's for sure, though, your family will enjoy your free membership to the 18-hole South Forbes Golf Club for every lot or condo unit purchase.

Preferred access

As South Forbes residents you will also enjoy worldwide perks in the 42 affiliates of the exclusive golf club of IMG Sports Club. As such, you will get preferred access and discounted rates at the Nirwana Bali Golf Club in Indonesia.

If you love traveling to the US West Coast, you can bring relatives and friends to the prestigious Presidio Golf Club in San Francisco. If it's the East Coast you prefer, you can jetset to The Fox Valley Club in New York.

Even Europe and Australia are all covered by your South Forbes golf membership. Truly, it's the best way to enjoy the best of the East and the West! To check out the winning eastern and western home designs at South Forbes, call 635-8108 or 636-4647 or click www.southforbes.com.

GOLD drapes and chairs lend a luxurious atmosphere at the South Forbes Mediterranean Villas.

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RESIDENTIAL

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Area	Min Bid
PARAÑAQUE		
1. Condo/Unit 2B Washington Tower Asiaworld, Tambo (w/parking lot)	FA - 323.69	8,092,250
2. Condo/Unit 2C Washington Tower Asiaworld, Tambo (w/parking lot)	FA - 339.43	8,484,750
3. Condo/Unit 3B Washington Tower Asiaworld, Tambo (w/ parking lot) Under lease*	FA - 323.69	8,092,250
4. Condo/Unit 9B Washington Tower Asiaworld, Tambo (w/parking lot) Under lease*	FA - 333.2	8,996,400
5. Condo/Unit 9C Washington Tower Asiaworld, Tambo (w/parking lot) Under lease*	FA - 347.67	9,387,000
6. Unit 502 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road (with 1 parking slot)	FA -172.69	2,500,000
7. Unit 503 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road (with 1 parking slot)	FA - 164.62	2,500,000
8. Townhouse/L 1 & 2, B2 Action Lane cor Banner St. cor Stet St., 4th Estate Subd., Brgy San Dionisio Under lease*	LA - 705 FA - 914.62	8,500,000
9. Townhouse/No.25 MJS Ave. & LPL Ave., Levitown Subd., La Huerta	LA - 801 FA - 182.7	6,114,240
MAKATI		
10. Unit 512/Makati Prime Citadel P. Burgos	FA - 43	1,505,000
KALOOKAN		
11. Lot 8, Block 2,Road Lot 2, Perpetual Subdivision, Bagumbong	LA - 240	312,000
LAGUNA		
12. Lot/Pamplona St. Bo. Bucal Lecheria Calamba	LA - 34,750	41,700,000
13. Lot 29-B, Block 4, Road Lot 2 cor Road Lot 4 Monte Cecilia Subd. Bo. Diezmo, Cabuyao	LA - 1,356	2,034,000
BULACAN		
14. Townhouse/L 2, B 7, Richmond Vill. Brgy Bahay Pare, Meycauayan	LA - 252 FA - 283.5	2,500,000
CAVITE		
15. Townhouse/Lot 25, Blk 30 Tangile St. Greenbreeze 1 Subd., Bo. Lancaan Dasmariñas	LA - 514 FA - 297	1,500,000
16. Townhouse/Lot 6,7 & 8, Blk B No. 10 Progressive Vill 7 Subd. San Nicolas, Bacoor	LA - 740 FA - 352.10	3,500,000
COTTONWOOD HEIGHTS, BAYUGO, ANTIPOLO CITY		
17. Lot 16, Block 5, Pearwood Street	LA - 367	1,284,500
18. Lot 30, Block 7, Cottonwood Drive	LA - 366	1,281,000
19. Lot 2, Block 1, Foliage Hills	LA - 240	840,000
20. Lot 3, Block 1, Foliage Hills	LA - 240	840,000
21. Lot 4, Block 1, Foliage Hills	LA - 240	840,000
22. Lot 8, Block 3, Foliage Hills	LA - 317	1,109,500

COMMERCIAL

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Area	Min Bid
MAKATI		
23. Condo/Unit 7A ACT Tower, Sen Gil Puyat Ave & H.V. de la Costa St. w/ 2 parking slots	FA - 325.2	10,406,400
24. Condo/Unit 8A ACT Tower, Sen Gil Puyat Ave & H.V. de la Costa St. w/ 2 parking slots	FA - 325.2	10,406,400
25. Condo/Unit 1, 7th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 384	13,440,000
26. Condo/Unit 2, 7th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 339	11,865,000
27. Condo/Unit 1, 17th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 373	13,055,000
28. Condo/Unit 1, 19th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 373	13,055,000
29. Condo/Unit 1, 20th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 373	13,055,000
30. Condo/Unit 2, 20th Floor, BDO Plaza Paseo de Roxas	FA - 367	12,845,000
31. Condo/Unit 3B ACT Tower, Sen Gil Puyat Ave & H.V. de la Costa St. w/ 2 parking slots. Under lease*	FA - 280.53	8,415,900
CAVITE		
32. Agrifarm/Rwlnd, Bo. Toclong, Kawit (no right of way)	LA - 18,457	7,382,800
PASIG		
33. Condo/Unit 1506,15F The Centerpoint Garnet cor J. Vargas Streets Ortigas Center (w/ parking slot) Under lease*	FA - 170	5,740,000
34. Condo/Unit C, 9F Strata 2000 Condo Emerald & Garnet Sts. Ortigas Center Under lease*	FA - 250	6,500,000
PASAY CITY		
35. San Rafael, Roxas Boulevard	LA - 3,020	108,720,000
ANTIPOLO		
36. Lots 2-I-1 & 2-J Marcos Highway Bo. Munang	LA - 29,208	52,574,400
37. Memorial Lots/2,396 Lawn lots Heaven's Gate Memorial Gardens II Sapinit Rd, Sitio Palanas, Bgy Sn Juan		P13,898/unit
38. Memorial Lots/14 units (56 lots) single niche Heaven's Gate Memorial Gardens II, Sapinit Rd,Sitio Palanas		P58,040/unit 4 lots per unit
39. Memorial Lots/73 units (1,095 lots) garden estate, Heaven's Gate Memorial Gardens II, Sapinit Rd. Sitio Palanas, Brgy San Juan		P217,650/unit 15 lots per unit
BULACAN		
40. Agrifarm/Rawlnd, Skyline Road Sitio Tungkong Mangga,Bo. Gaya-Gaya San Jose del Monte	LA - 11,904.3 FA - 3,515	16,000,000

RESIDENTIAL /COMMERCIAL (MIXED USE)

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION	Area	Min Bid
MALABON		
41. Res'l/Comml Bldg/Lot 25-A-3 RDC Compound, Reparo Road	LA - 1,000 FA - 3,712	23,719,400
PARAÑAQUE		
42. 4Sty Res'l/Com'l Bldg/East Srvce Rd UPS 1, Ibayo (1 grd unit under lease)	LA - 360 FA-1,102.49	10,000,000

* Banco de Oro may, at anytime, withdraw any of the properties listed above prior to auction.

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How to invest correctly in real estate

WITH THE ANTICIPATED full recovery of the real estate industry, real estate investors, developers, land owners and realty professionals need to update their real estate knowledge to avoid the same costly mistakes that transpired in the past.

It is in this regard that a 10-topic series of lectures on Investing in Real Estate will be conducted by Urban Institute of Real Estate on Feb. 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27, March 1, 6 and 8, (Monday and Wednesday) from 1:30 to 6 p.m. at the Maximo Function Room, second floor, Max's Restaurant, Glorietta 2, Ayala Center, Makati City.

This lecture series would set off participants to the ABCs of real estate investing and guide them to a pleasant and successful experience in real estate business.

Topics

The topics, which may be attended separately and are all stand alone are as follows: Feb. 6—Investing in Real Estate: Opportunities, Techniques and What Are Needed to Learn before Investing; Feb. 8—Property Development and HLURB Rules and Regulations; Feb. 13—How to Start and Manage a Successful Real Estate Brokerage Company; Feb. 15—Legal Aspect of Sale, Mortgage and Lease with Contract Documentation and Registration;

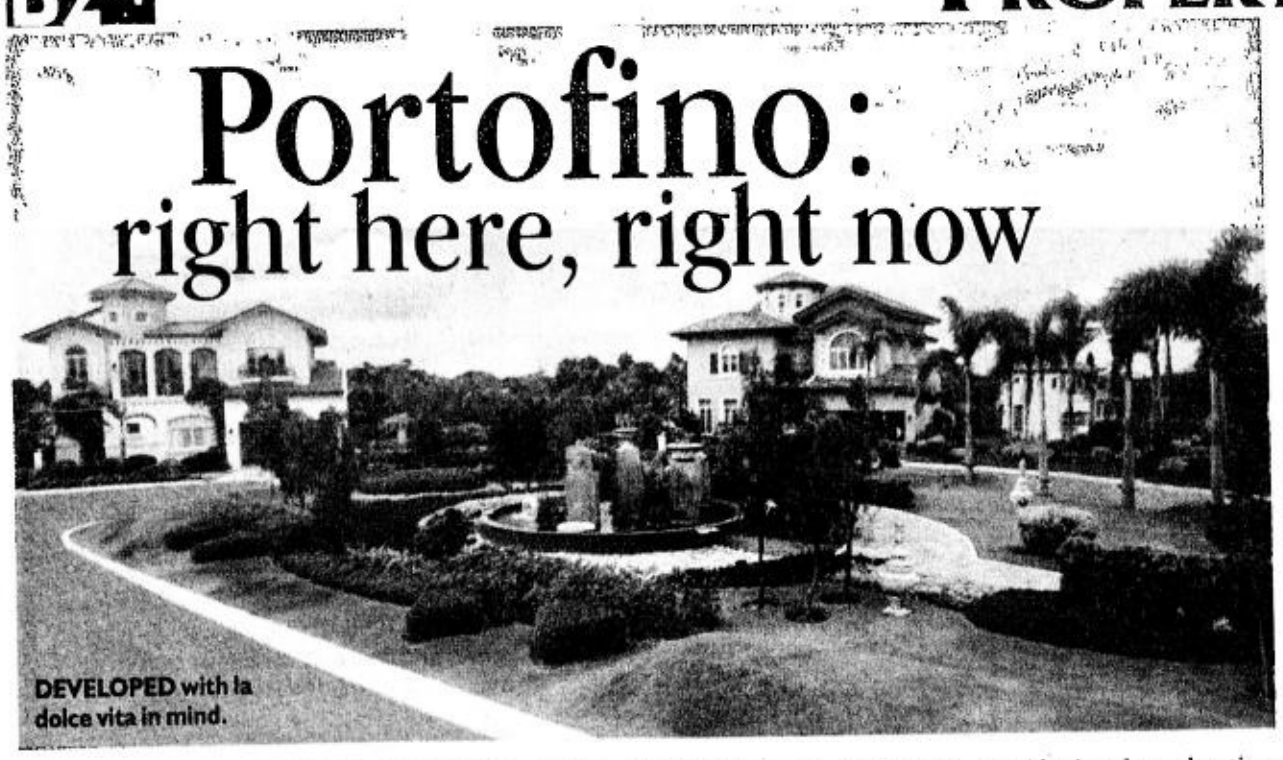
Feb. 20—Joint Ventures and Syndications for Real Estate Projects; Feb. 22—Taxation Aspects of Real Estate Transactions and Real Property Assessment; Feb. 27—Real Estate Finance and Investment Analysis; March 1—Management of Rental Properties; March 6—How-tos of Real Property Valuation; and March 8—Making Big Money in Distressed Properties.

Lecturers

This lecture series is accredited by Department of Trade and Industry for CEP compliance and will have as lecturers lawyer Dennis Tablizo, noted resource speaker on land laws; lawyer Catherine T. Manahan, director for tax services of Joaquin Cunanan & Co.; and engineer Enrico Cruz, who has more than 35 years in real estate, engineering, construction, management and education. Cruz is also a licensed real estate consultant and first and 8th placer in the real estate appraiser's and broker's board examinations, respectively, and was invested as a "Real Estate Fellow" by the Philippine Council of Real Estate Educators.

For other details, call Urban Institute at Tel. No. 681-0928 or cell phone 0916-426-9174 or e-mail at urbanet@pacific.net.ph.

Portofino: right here, right now


DEVELOPED with la dolce vita in mind.

WHILE PATIENCE IS A VIRTUE, IT IS ALSO true that every second counts. In today's fast-changing world where everything must literally be at the tip of one's finger, time is undoubtedly of the essence and property development is not exempt.

It has always been the pride of maverick real property developer Brittany Corp. to be able to provide what its clients require long before they realize that it is a necessity. With its Portofino development, Brittany is offering the future of residential development right here, right now.

Foresight

"At Brittany Corp., we take our client's future seriously. A large part of our responsibility requires foresight—to know what they need today and ensure its availability, to be able to identify what they would require in the future and provide it when the time comes, and pretty much to offer the future today. While other developers have yet to break ground, Portofino does not make its residents wait. It can provide most of its homeowners' needs right here and right now," Brittany president Jing Serrano said.

A GROWING neighborhood of quaint courtyard homes in Courtyards of Portofino.

"That, I believe, is one of the many advantages of the Portofino development. Just five minutes away from the business district of Alabang and 30 minutes away from the central business district of Makati is this beautiful, Italian-inspired, finely masterplanned property—the only development of its scale today that is closest to these important commercial hubs and is ready to welcome residents without delay," Serrano continued.

Commercial hub

Delay, without doubt, was thrown out of Brittany's dictionary when it conceptualized Portofino. Apart from its proximity to key business enclaves, the development will also include its own commercial hub to ensure that residents would neither have to go too far nor leave the security of Portofino to be able to dine out, be entertained or shop for both luxuries and essentials.

Portofino occupies over 300 hectares of land on the Las Piñas-Cavite-Laguna-Muntinlupa Link Road. It consists of Portofino Heights, Portofino South, WideLots of Portofino and the Courtyards of Portofino—all fashioned after the ideals of the high life. Inspired by Italian architecture, dramatic details such as sun-drenched colors, cobblestones, and romantic balconies are among its most dominant features.

Brittany paved the way for another exciting and dynamic year as it recently launched Cezanne for public viewing. Cezanne is the latest model to be unveiled among the series of Courtyard model homes. Like its predecessors, Raphael and Rembrandt, Cezanne also features a quaint indoor courtyard, a concept that is unique to Brittany. It is an open, conducive area where the family can gather and relax together. With Cezanne, homeowners are given a choice of two layouts—one offers a casita or guest room, and the other layout provides a receiving area for guests or ante room.

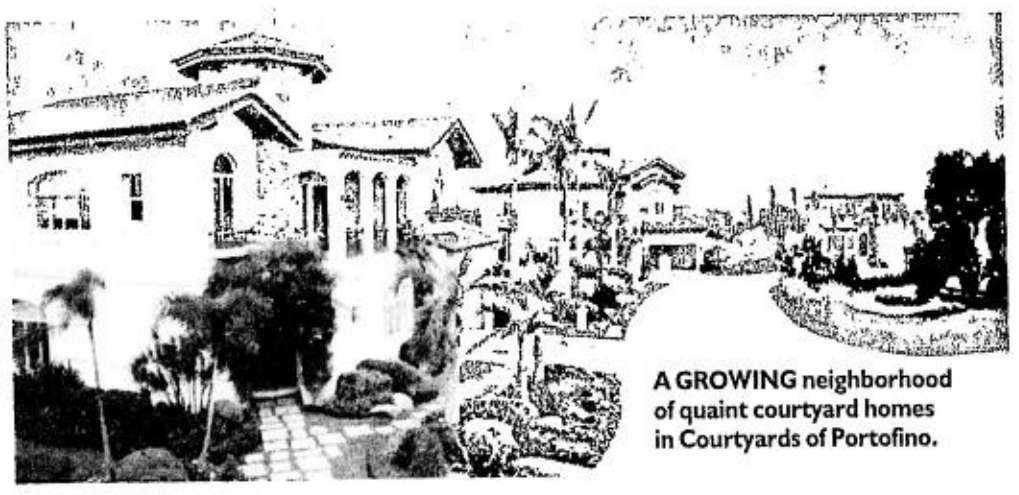
Premium utilities

Portofino offers premium utilities for its residents. To ensure an unobstructed view of the landscape, cables for power and communication were buried underground. Perimeter fences and buffer trees line the boundary lots to ensure security apart from the 24-hour system that safeguards the entire community.

Deep wells and water reservoirs ensure a round-the-clock water service. Garbage is collected every other day. Most of all, a professional property management team secures the community and makes sure that the high standards are maintained long after the last lot has been purchased.

"While it is important to plan for the future, it is vital to remember that how we live in the present is equally essential," Serrano stressed. "Life is short and some things just can't wait. At Portofino, you don't have to."

For inquiries and property previews, please call 850-2868 or 850-3084, or visit www.brittany.com.ph.


A GROWING neighborhood of quaint courtyard homes in Courtyards of Portofino.

Marikina's premier condo boasts efficient construction

RISING IN THE EAST WITH THE SUN IS Marquinton Residences, Marikina City's premier master-planned community set to introduce a higher state of urban living. The 20-hectare development features a cluster of mid-rise residential-commercial condominiums, with 60 percent of Marquinton devoted to lush greenery and open space.

"The construction is proceeding as planned. The Barcelona Tower only has three more floors to go before we have the official topping-off ceremony for the structure. We also had our first concrete-pouring for Alicante Tower last December 2005, showing that construction of the second tower is a month ahead of schedule," Federal Land Marketing FVP Ramon Aldaba said.

Pioneer

Property giant Federal Land pioneered the concept of living in vertical apartments and condominiums in the Philippines. Today, intelligently planned communities and monumental high rises like the cutting-edge GT Tower in Makati stand as a testament to the company's strong commitment to transcend the client's fullest expectations.

Backed by a remarkable record of 33 years, Federal Land has solidified its place in the real estate industry through a consistent adherence to efficient construction and timely delivery. And Federal Land reached new heights once again with Marquinton Residences—a peaceful sanctuary in an equally vibrant city.

Self-contained community

Envisioned to be a self-contained township, Marquinton provides residents with an environment that fosters a well-rounded lifestyle and a nurturing community. It makes available a host of social, recreational and health facilities: a resort-type swimming pool, clubhouse, multi-purpose function room, outdoor children's playground, gym, basketball and tennis courts, courtyard garden and pond, picnic area, and bicycle lanes.

Just outside the doorstep is the Blue Wave Mall—a commercial center featuring four top grade cinemas, superb dining options, performing venues and a myriad of retailers. Marquinton's close proximity to first-rate medical facilities, banks, schools and public transport guarantees its residents that all their needs are just within their reach. It is a complete neighborhood that enriches lives by celebrating the simple joys and preserving the things we value the most.

Present challenge

Aldaba added that residential condominiums are budding in the Alabang, Ortigas and Makati central business districts because of the improved quality of life made possible by the modern conveniences of condo living. Their present challenge is to "share the liberating experience of condo living with the populace of Marikina and the surrounding towns, and make them realize the unsurpassed advantages of what this beneficial lifestyle can bring."

Experience urban life—redefined with Marquinton Residences. Simply contact 889-6414 or 889-4900, log on to www.federalland.com.ph, or e-mail inquiry@federalland.com.ph. #

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PROPE

Metropolitan living in Batangas

By Charles E. Buban

BATANGAS IS FAST BECOMing a favorite destination for home developers. Blessed with cool climate, pristine surroundings, and an expressway that shortens the trip going to and from Metro Manila, the province offers the right qualities that home builders look for.

The presence of a number of special economic zones in Batangas also brings economic growth and prosperity to the province as well as to its people who now have the capacity to buy quality homes.

Anticipating such an outcome, Sunfields Realty Development Inc. and Alsons Land Inc. joined hands in developing Campo Verde (809-5861), a community targeting young start-up to growing families.

Landowner Alsons Land is a subsidiary of the Alcantara Group of Companies, one of the largest and most diversified conglomerates in the Philippines while the developers behind Campo Verde are some of the industry's most respected names: Noel Gonzales, Francisco Licuanan, Manuel Colayco and Cheryl Chua.

Spanish-themed homes

Located within the Lima Technology Center-Special Economic Zone in Lipa and Malvar, Batangas, Campo Verde offers three distinct Spanish-themed home designs: Casa Condesa, Casa Duquesa and Casa Reina.

"We chose warm earthly tones, high ceilings, etc. because these designs are very popular here and the fact that they suit the surroundings well," said Chua.

Casa Condesa is a single-story 36-square-meter home standing on a 90-sq-m lot. Offering two bedrooms, the Condesa features ample space for parents to play with their kids and even for entertaining guests.

2-story home

The Casa Duquesa, on the other hand, is a

CASA Duquesa

50-sq-m, two-story home that is perfect for growing families. It has provisions for two spacious bedrooms, living and dining areas.

With lot area of 100 sq m, one can still add a modest-sized landscaped garden.

The Casa Reina is considered Campo Verde's premium home offering that features roomy interior and an expertly planned layout that maximizes its 80-sq-m floor area.

The Casa Reina offers three bedrooms and an expansive living space for holding family or small gatherings.

"Each of these home design options offers value for money—with a price range from just P800,000 to P2.2 million—and are even made more affordable through Pag-Ibig Fund and other private lending institutions," informed Chua.

Sports, recreational area

Campo Verde community also offers amenities usually found in more expensive developments: sports and recreation area that offers ball courts, play parks, swimming pool and a clubhouse that also doubles as venue for important events.

The community also boasts of carefully planned amenities that naturally highlight the property's natural environment including picnic areas for holding barbecue parties and

CASA Condesa

beautifully landscaped walkways to accommodate morning or late afternoon strolls.

Chua said the community's beautiful surroundings will be maintained meticulously courtesy of a professional village management company that the developers have tapped to assure residents of well-maintained streets, immaculate lawns and well-functioning facilities at all times.

Chua added that the developers will be sponsoring a Grand Ranchero celebration tomorrow where guests will be treated to a number of presentations and other fun-filled activities.

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HOME MAKEOVER

The ultimate 'out of the box' experience

FOR THE NEW YEAR, A YOUNG COUPLE'S home was given a total home makeover by Real Living Magazine and a little help from Handyman Do It Best Home Center (Handyman).

• **The residents.** Johni and wife Ahrlean are pharmacy assistants at a popular drugstore. They live with Johni's father, Ding, in a 33-square-meter property in Makati, inherited 19 years ago.

• **The house.** The boxed-type property can be best described as that—a box. "It was just cement and hollow blocks, from the floor to the walls," Johni recounts. Kitchen windows were square holes chiseled off from the all-concrete unpainted wall and covered with decorative blocks.

The living room floor was so uneven that a trip to the kitchen from the bedroom or living room often proved to be a bumpy one. The couple cannot afford to install a ceiling under their raw galvanized iron roof and had to put up with a leak in the roof when it rains and bear the heat during summer.

• **The mail.** Johni took the next best step by joining Summit Media's Real Living Magazine's makeover promo. "I wanted a dramatic first impression for guests and neighbors. I wanted a place to retreat after a long, hard day but our needs are far more basic. My wife and I just needed something functional, a place where we can really live in, not a box," he recalls.

• **The ultimate change.** It was a challenge turning the once bare house into a sanctuary but Handyman joined in and helped achieve the look. The house was painted with sky blue living room walls, light olive kitchen walls, tempered with sandstone kitchen floors (with paints and paint materials available at all Handyman branches) for that semi-Mediterranean effect.

A wooden shoe cabinet, topped with the couple's framed memories, provided the foyer's focal point as it blended with the sheer curtains in white and natural hue. In the kitchen, counter tiles were set up; floors evened out and painted; faucets, cabinet hardware and a small window were installed. The once unfurnished living room was magically turned into an indoor cabana with white sheer cloths hanging across the ceiling.

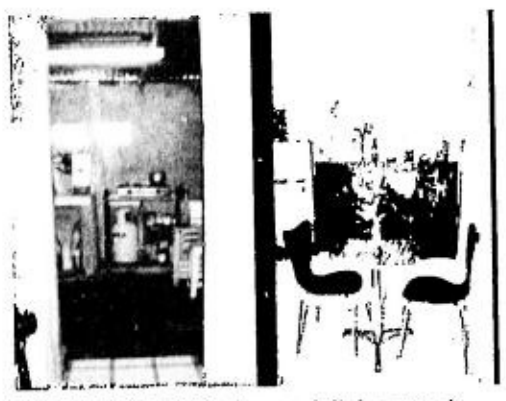
Elegant lighting fixtures with dimmers were mounted to define the space and replaced the ordinary heat-inducing bulbs. While the curtain rods, coffee table, ceramic floor tiles, and all electrical and painting materials from Handyman added the finishing touches. The curio cabinet, clay vases, decorative wick baskets and other Asian ornaments emphasized the homey ambience.

• **The store.** Take some time to make the little changes that can pack a powerful design punch for your home's new look this year. It can be done—and within any budget—when you visit Handyman. Check out various actual home setups—kitchens, living rooms, bathrooms and gardens—at Handyman in Robinsons Ermita for makeover inspiration. Handyman Do It Center branches also offer creative bathroom setups to give you better design options.

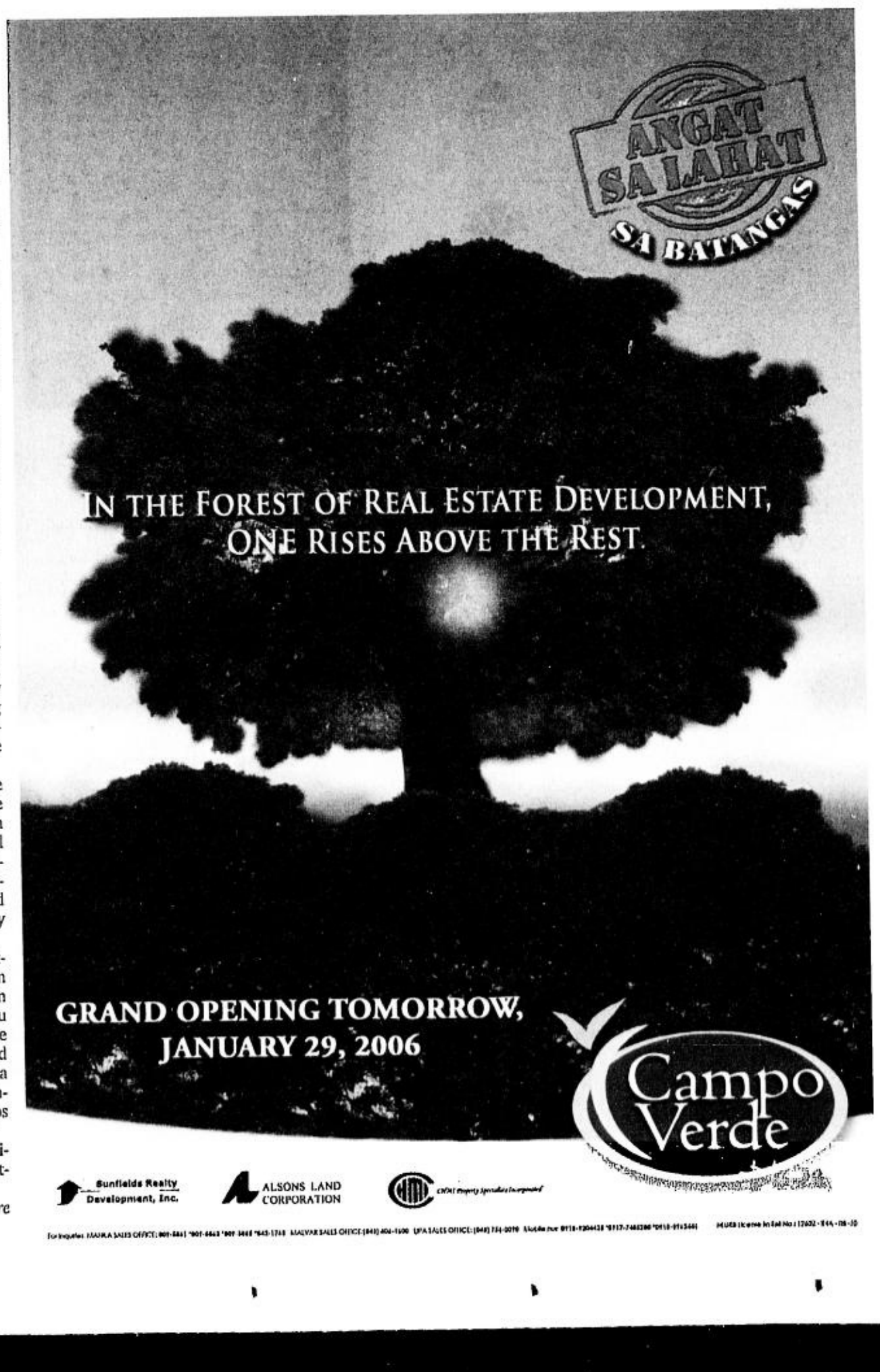
• **The ultimate "out-of-the-box" experience.** "Thanks to Handyman. I got what I wanted, needed and much more!" Johni says.

(Link up to www.handyman.com.ph for more workshop schedules and other event details.)

FROM ORDINARY living room—raw, bare and unpainted—to a sanctuary



THE CRAMPED kitchen and dining area is now a cozy kitchen-dining nook for two.



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Edsa Shangri-La MANILA
Edsa Shangri-la Manila
1 Garden Way, Ortigas Center, Manila
Tel. 633-8888
www.shangri-la.com

Dusit Hotel Nikko
Dusit Hotel Nikko
Ayala Center, 1223 Makati City Phil.
Tel. 867-3333 Email: dusitmnl@dusit.com
http://manila.dusit.com

Shangri-La Mactan Island Resort CEBU, PHILIPPINES
Mactan Island Resort
Punta Engano Road, Lapu Lapu Cebu
Tel. (632) 231-0288/Fax (632) 231-1688
www.shangri-la.com

Oakwood
Oakwood Premier Ayala Center
6th Floor, Glorietta 4, Ayala Center
Makati City, Metro Manila
Tel. (63.2) 729.8888 loc. 8101 Fax: : (63.2) 728.0000 / echua@oakwood..com.ph
www.oakwood.com

WATERFRONT CEBU CITY HOTEL & CASINO
Waterfront Hotel Lahug
1 Salinas Drive, Lahug Cebu City
Tel. (6332) 232-6888/Fax (6332)232-6880
www.waterfronthotels.net

Evercrest Golf Club Resort, Inc.
Km. 72 Batulao, Nasugbu, Batangas
Tel. (02) 712-9293 to 98
Fax (02) 712-9299
Manila Sales Office 733-3822/733-9955

WATERFRONT MACTAN
Waterfront Hotel Mactan
1 Airport Road, Lapu Lapu City, 6015
Tel. (632) 340-4888/fax (632) 340-5693
www.waterfronthotels.net

MANILA PAVILION
Manila Pavilion Hotel
UN Avenue, Ermita, Manila, 1000
Tel. (632) 526-1212 /fax (632) 526-2552
www.manilapavilion.com.ph.

The Bellevue Manila
North Bridgeway, Northgate' Alabang, Muntinlupa
Tel. (632) 771-8181/ fax (632) 771-8282
www.thebellevue.com.ph

THE GARDEN PLAZA HOTEL • SUITES
Garden Plaza Hotel & Suites
1030 Belen St., Paco, Manila
Tel. (632) 522-4835/ fax (632) 522-4840

ASTORIA PLAZA Serviced Residential Suites
ASTORIA PLAZA
15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City 1600
Tel 687-1111 Fax 910-0370
Email: sales@astoriaplaza.com

City Garden Suites
City Garden Suites
1158A Mabini St., Ermita, Manila
Tel. 536-1451 Fax. 524-4844
Email:cityreservations@citygardenhotels.com

Executive Plaza Hotel
1630 A Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel 523-1000 /fax 525-8979
Email: sales@executiveplazahotel.com
www.executiveplazahotel.com

City Garden Hotel-Makati
Makati Ave., cor. Kalayaan St., Makati City
Tel. (02) 899-1111 Fax. (02) 899-1415
Email: makati:citygardenhotels.com

Las Palmas
Las Palmas Hotel Manila
1616 A. Mabini St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (632) 521-1000/ Fax (632) 523-6917
www.laspalmashotel.com.ph

PALM PLAZA HOTEL
Palm Plaza Hotel
Pedro Gil corner M. Adriatico Sts., Manila
Tel. (02) 522-1000 Fax 525-8013
www.palmplazahotel.com

DIAMOND HOTEL PHILIPPINES
Diamond Hotel Philippines
Cor. Dr. J. Quinto St. Roxas Blvd.
Tel. (02) 528-3000 Fax 526-2255

THE ROYAL MANDAYA HOTEL DAVAO
Royal Mandaya Hotel
J. Palma Gil St. Davao City
Tel. (082) 225-8888/fax (082) 225-1888

CSB HOTEL INTERNATIONAL CONTINENTAL CENTER
CSB Hotel
Arellana Ave., cor. Estrada St., Malate, Manila
Tel. (02) 400-3333 Fax 400-7401

Camp John Hay Manor
Loakan Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0231 to 50

HOTEL VENIZ BAGUIO
Hotel Veniz
No. 1 Abanao St. Baguio City
Tel. (074) 446-0700 to 03
Fax (074) 446-0704
Email: hotelveniz@skyinet.net
www.hotelveniz.com

City Travel Hotel
City Travel Hotel
15 Kisad Road, Baguio City
Tel. (074) 445-0456 / Fax (074) 445-0457

Subic
Subic International Hotel
Subic Bay, Free Port Zone, Olongapo City
Manila : 243-2222 / F: 243-0852
http://www.subichotel.com

The Golden Pine
Golden Pine Hotel and Restaurant
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Tel. (074)444-9970 to 71/740-8975/
Fax. (074) 446-0704
Email: goldenpinehotle@skyinet.net

THE MARCO POLO DAVAO
The Marco Polo
CM Recto St. Davao City 8000
Tel. (082) 221-0888/fax (082) 225-0111
www.marcopolohotels.com

TAAL VISTA HOTEL
Taal Vista Hotel
Managed by Fuego Hotels & Properties
Km. 60 Aguinaldo Highway, Tagaytay City
Tel. (632) 886-4325, (6346) 413-1000
Email : taalvista@fuegohotels.com

SOMERSET SALCEDO MAKATI
Somerset Salcedo, Makati
H.V. dela Costa St., cor. L.P Leviste St., Salcedo Village, 1227 Makati City
Tel. 888-6668 Fax: 888-6655

SUMMER PLACE HOTEL
Summer Place Hotel
Km. 288 Marcos Highway, Baguio City
Tel. :(074) 446.0560, 446.5400-01
www.SummerPlaceBaguio.com

SOMERSET MILLENNIUM MAKATI
Somerset Millennium, Makati
No. 104 Aguirre St., Legaspi Village, 1229 Makati City
Tel. 888-0505 Fax: 812-7721

The Regent Hotel
Elias, Angeles St., Naga City
Tel. (6354) 4722626 / Fax (6354) 4722525

SOMERSET OLYMPIA MAKATI
Somerset Olympia, Makati
No. 7912, Makati Ave., 1220 Makati City
Tel. 812-1010 Fax: 818-8254

Grand Regal Hotel Davao
J. P Laurel St., Lanang, Davao City
Tel (382) 235-0888 / (382) 234-3858

'Pasta, Noodles + Rice' at Bocarinos

THE NEW WORLD RENAISSANCE Hotel's stylish resto Bocarinos presents "Pasta, Noodle + Rice", from Jan. 9 to March 31. "Pasta, Noodle + Rice" offer updated classic recipes and truly satisfying culinary masterpieces with a twist, for lunch and dinner. Included in the special menu are delectable and tempting dishes such as: Crabcakes with Tomato Jam and Marinated Noodle Salad, Green Olive Baked Chicken on Pumpkin and Feta Rice, Penne with Wilted Rocket Prosciutto, among other mouthwatering pasta, noodle, and rice dishes.

Bocarinos is open Mondays to Fridays, 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. and 6 to 10 p.m.; Saturdays at 6 to 10 p.m.

For more information and reservations, call the New World Renaissance Hotel at 811-6888.

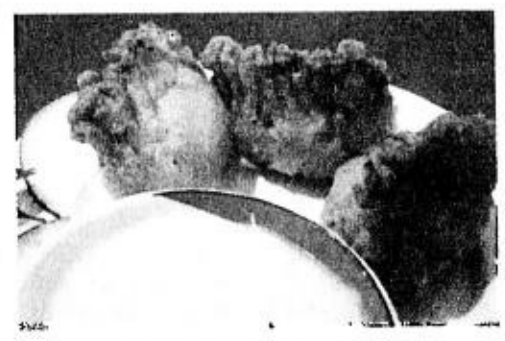
Poolside Pre-Valentine treat at The Bellevue

FINE DINING AL FRESCO AT THE BELLEvue Hotel's poolside area is sure to warm lovers' hearts. A candelit dinner to celebrate love's triumph, The Bellevue's Pre Valentine Set Dinner delivers a strong statement of devotion, as pairs are serenaded by a live acoustic group and served with an amazing menu inspired by passion and romance. Available from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Feb. 13 only.

The Bellevue Hotel, southern Metro Manila's answer to exciting promos and sumptuous food offerings presents its Cake of the Month-Plisse Mound. Celebrate the love month with this saccharine delight, an extraordinary taste of crème brulee vanilla on almond crust and chocolate sponge. Perfect as a Valentine gift. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

Dimsum Festival at Manila Pavilion

IN WELCOMING THE YEAR of the Dog, Manila Pavilion Hotel has prepared the Dimsum Festival featuring a special selection of traditional Chinese cuisine. Menu is composed of Pork Dumplings with Black Mushrooms, Steamed Asado Buns, Porridge with Pork and Century Eggs, Deep-fried Salad Prawns, Glutinous Rice wrapped in Lotus Leaf, Steamed Chicken Feet with Black Beans, Deep-fried Sesame Balls, Deep-fried Taro Puffs, Pan-fried Radish Cake, Deep-fried Sesame Prawn Rolls, Steamed Spareribs with Plum Sauce, Steamed Scallops Dumplings, Steamed Fried Fish Balls, Steamed Crystal Prawns Dumpling, Coffee Pudding, and Honeydew Tapioca.



Available during lunch and dinner, the Dimsum Festival is indeed extra special as this marks the first Chinese New Year celebration of Peony Garden, Manila Pavilion Hotel's recently opened restaurant.

To complete the festivities is a Dragon dance to entertain and enhance the luck of everyone that passes its way. Catch it on Jan. 28, at 6 p.m.

For inquiries and reservations, please call Manila Pavilion Hotel at 526-1212 extension 2303 (Peony Garden).

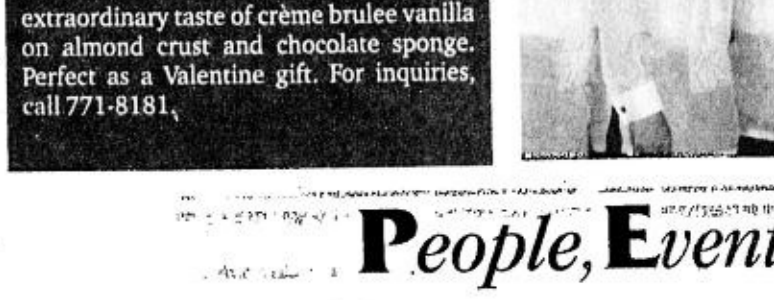
WATERFRONT HOSTS FESTIVALS OF THE PHILIPPINES

Shown are (from left): Joey D. Bernardino, corporate director of sales and marketing of Waterfront Hotels and Casinos, Bernardo Corpus Jr., resident manager of Manila Pavilion Hotel , Marco Protacio, general manager of Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino, Rexlon T. Gatchalian, president of Waterfront Hotels and Casinos, Linie Cortez-Palacio, hotel manager of Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao and Hembler Mendoza, hotel manager of Waterfront Airport Hotel and Casino.

People, Events & Products

Best Foods search for the 'Best Kids'

Best Foods salutes savvy kids by conducting a search for the country's Best Kid. Children aged 6 to 10 years old must be accompanied by a parent or guardian, present a P50 proof of purchase of any Best Foods product and undergo an interview and screen test at the following: LCC Legaspi, CSI La Union, NCCC Davao, and Robinsons Iloilo on Jan. 28 and 29; and Robinsons Metro East, Robinsons Starmills, Gaisano Zamboanga, and LCC Naga on Feb. 4 and 5. Exciting prizes await the Best Foods Best Kid, plus a starring role in the new Best Foods music video and other surprises. For more information, call 588-8855 (Metro Manila) or 1-800-10-588-8855 (Toll free number outside Metro Manila).



HOMECREDIT, SYKES ASIA SIGN AGREEMENT

HomeCredit Mutual Building & Loan Association, a wholly owned subsidiary of The Insular Life Assurance Company Ltd welcomes its newest partner in providing the most beneficial home financing program to the employees of Sykes Asia Inc. Signing for HomeCredit is its president, Ronnie B. Alcantara, (seated second from left) and for Sykes Asia Inc is its regional finance director, Leonila Nicolas, (seated third from left). Witnessing the event are (standing from left): HomeCredit vice president for sales - Dondi G. Martinez, senior marketing officer - Michelle Lladia, manager for membership - Des Castor, manager for business development - Ida W. Atayde, Sykes Asia marketing specialist - Maria Rebecca Belmonte and sales analyst - Francis Gerard Tupaz. Seated from left is HomeCredit acting general manager/vice president - Chito S. Del Rosario and seated far right Sykes Asia regional HR director - Ruchira Mehrotra.

St. Paul Manila Homecoming

ALUMNAE OF ST. PAUL UNIVERSITY MANILA (FORMERLY ST. PAUL College of Manila) will hold their homecoming on Jan. 29, at the school grounds starting at 12 noon. This year's host is high School Batch 1981. Activities include photo exhibits by photographer April Son, Batch '81, entitled Jubilarian Women of Substance and old photos of the various Jubilarians; a eucharistic celebration; an international food festival; and "Live hte Life" raffle draw. The Grand Homecoming Show at 6:30 p.m. will feature show-stopping dances by the jubilarian classes and a tribute to Fr. James B. Reuter, S.J. Participants are requested to bring two ID photos for registration purposes. For details, please contact the SPMAFI office at 523-4259 or 524-5687.

Pista ng Sto. Nino at Frolics 2006

SAN BEDA COLLEGE IS INVITING ITS ALUMNI AND THE PUBLIC TO THIS year's Pista ng Sto. Nino at the Mendiola Campus from Jan. 27 to 29. This year's theme, "Sa Dasal at Gawa Natin, Sto. Nino ang Dakilain," is in keeping with San Beda's motto of prayer and work and its devotion to the Child Jesus. Highlights of the celebrations are a cheer dance exhibition, a historical exhibit, an acrobatic show, a dog show, sports activities, a theological and bible quiz bee, a concert by the Bedan Band, a car show, field demonstrations and a dance party. These activities will culminate with the annual procession and the Eucharistic celebration on Sunday at 4:30 p.m. at the football field and the 20th anniversary concert of the renowned San Beda High School Glee Club at the Abbot Lopez Hall at 7 p.m.

Hotel Sogo participates in Mango Tee

THE ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB WILL ONCE AGAIN HOST THE 22ND Mango Tee, one of the most prestigious Club tournaments in the country, on Feb. 1 to 5. The 22nd Mango Tee is one of the many activities lined up in celebration of the 25th Anniversary of the Club. Due to the tournament's undisputed prestige and reputation, Hotel Sogo and Eurotel supports the Mango Tee as one of the sponsors. One of the most visible figures in the hotel industry, Hotel Sogo and Eurotel believes that the 22nd Mango Tee is the best venue for them to tap their target market and launch the latest activities of their ever-expanding chain of hotels. The five-day event will kick with the Ceremonial Tee-off on Jan. 30, at the ACCI Golf Course, with no less than the former President Fidel V. Ramos as Guest of Honor.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Experiencing Bali at Aman Garden Residences

ONE MAY NOT TRAVEL FAR FROM home to experience the tropical paradise that is Bali, year after year voted by readers of all major travel magazines as the most enchanting travel and holiday destination in the world.

This exciting and romantic ambiance that tourists experience on Bali Island in Indonesia will soon be just a few minutes away from Makati.

The best of Bali's resort amenities are about to be captured in Aman Garden Residences, a mid-rise condominium development on the west service road in Merville, Parañaque City that blends Balinese culture and architecture with state-of-the-art development features.

Everyday hideaway

At the center of this development is a grand pavilion patterned after the charming Balinese cottage or "bale."

With its own lobby, the grand pavilion is surrounded by bodies of water— an artificial lake and an infinity pool—and complemented by a Bali-inspired setting of lush tropical vegetation and accent nooks such as the yoga garden, meditation huts and lotus pond, creating a verdant setting for an "everyday hideaway" or an instant "holiday getaway."

AMAN Garden's version of "bale" designed like a typical Balinese cottage

ARTIST'S rendition of Aman Garden Residences' main pavilion

Nevertheless, inside the grand pavilion are modern-day facilities that provide the leisure requirements of urban living. These include fine dining halls, bistro, game rooms and an adjacent floating pavilion that houses the audio-video entertainment system, all built according to country club standards.

For sports buffs, there are basketball and badminton courts within the property and a special privilege for homeowners' membership to the Nomad Sports Club in nearby Merville Park.

In-city sanctuary

Only a kilometer away from Makati, Aman Garden Residences is ideal for young urban professionals who need the conveniences of condominium living and the relaxing features of a resort, which is unique to this development.

Future homeowners are guaranteed of worry-free living as a competent property management staff makes sure all the facilities in Aman Garden Residences are always in proper condition.

A 42-square-meter, two-bedroom condo at Aman Garden Residences costs only around P2 million, with flexible payment terms that include in-house and bank financing.

For inquiries on this Balinese haven, call 888-3333 or visit www.dmcihomes.com.

Water heater firm opens service centers

JETT WATER HEATER CO. EMBARKS this year on direct marketing with sales and service centers in Metro Manila, Baguio City, Cebu and Davao.

Aside from the instantaneous water heaters, Atmor and Ariva, the Vulcan Storage and Solar Heaters, the company now also carries the JETT Pecol Heat Pump, and the Davey Water Pumps of Australia. The company also offers Calorifiers from standard to made-to-order sizes.

Service centers

JETT is thus making available to customers the whole range of choices and services for their water heating systems with showrooms and service centers in:

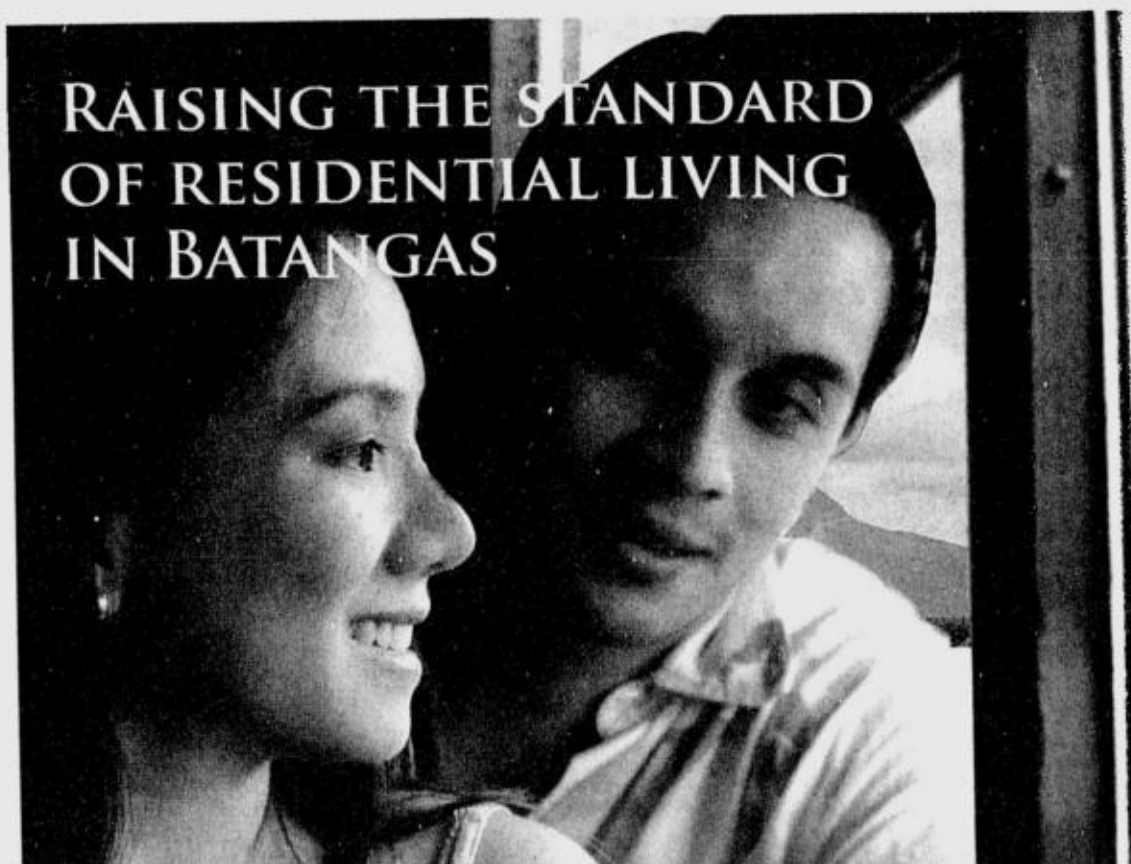
Metro Manila—Units 3 and 5, Bona Condominium, 545 Edsa, Cubao, Quezon City, (632) 723-0032 to 37, fax (632) 724-5907, 412-8736, e-mail jettsales@pacific.net.ph and website www.jetth2oheater.com.ph. customer care direct line (632) 415-5727, cell phone 0917-560-6765.

Baguio—No. 145 Kisad Rd., Baguio City, (074) 619-1203; (074) 304-1832, fax (074) 619-1204.

Cebu—JETT Sales & Services Co. Inc., 237 A. del Rosario St., Guizo, Mandaue City, (032) 343-8691, (032) 346-4536, (032) 346-4537, (032) 420-2553, telefax (032) 344-7439.

Davao—Perks Water Heater Sales, 68-B Fuentes Bldg., Quirino Ave., Davao City, (082) 300-8823, fax (082) 225-0915.

WAREHOUSE SALE
GRANITE & MARBLE
SANDSTONE, LIMESTONES & SLATES
PR STONE SUPPLY INC.
Warehouse: 1120 J.P. Rizal St., Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City
Tel. Nos. : 896-1112* 890-3407*895-9775*895-8401
Look for: Grace / Oryx



ANGAT SA LAHAT IN LOCATION AND ACCESSIBILITY
Built within LIMA Technology Center, Campo Verde in Malvar, Batangas is at the center of everything and is highly accessible to 24-hour public transportation whether bus or jeepney... It is just a stone's throw away from exclusive schools, churches, hospitals, malls, market, banks and countless commercial establishments.

ANGAT SA LAHAT IN SECURITY
Equipped with a worry-free, two-way security system from within the community and LIMA Technology Center, our residents are assured of a safe and peaceful environment.

ANGAT SA LAHAT IN AMENITIES AND FEATURES
Campo Verde is the only residential community in Batangas that can guarantee uninterrupted water and power supply all year round.

What's more, we have a multi-purpose sports complex, swimming pool and a clubhouse for more enjoyment and relaxation.

ANGAT SA LAHAT QUALITY HOMES WITHIN YOUR BUDGET
Our Casa Condesa, Casa Duquesa and Casa Reina homes are made from top quality materials, built to last, and are good value for money. Made affordable to PAG-IBIG members and other private lending institutions.

ANGAT SA LAHAT IN SANITATION AND MAINTENANCE
Campo Verde's property management team efficiently sees to it that proper garbage and waste segregation and other cleanliness measures remain a top priority to keep the community well-maintained, clean and pollution-free.

The dream of a blissfull, peaceful and fulfilling home for your family is definitely within reach at Campo Verde. Realize that dream.

Make The Right Choice.
Make Your Home at Campo Verde. Now.

HLURB License to Sell No.: 12602-R4A-05-10

For Inquiries: MANILA SALES OFFICE: 809-5861 * 809-5863 * 809-5855 * 842-1765
MALVAR SALES OFFICE: (043) 406-1600
LIPA SALES OFFICE: (043) 756-0090
Mobile nos: 0918-9204425 * 0917-7485280 * 0915-5962446

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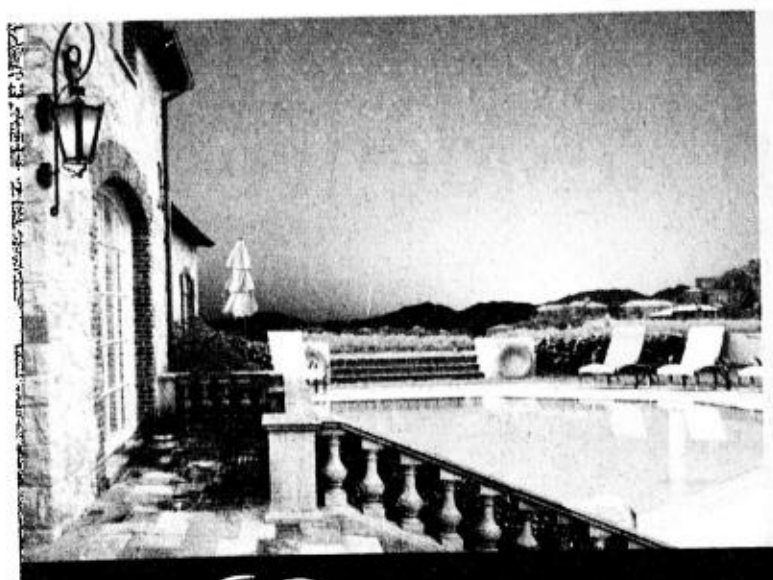


MILLE LUCE
Your Home Between the Stars and the City Lights

Crown Asia now enjoys the reputation of being the number one homebuilder in the country today. Offering wide selections of world-class residential community, they serve as the key that opens up opportunities to finally reach the dream of owning a house someday.

After over a decade of perfecting signature homes, Crown Asia celebrates the peak of success by presenting their new community eastbound of Manila. Welcome to the radiant enclave of Mille Luce.

Luxury at its Best

Mille Luce, a "thousand lights" in Italian, is located at the soothing heights of Antipolo. This masterwork exudes qualities of what a residential and commercial property should be.

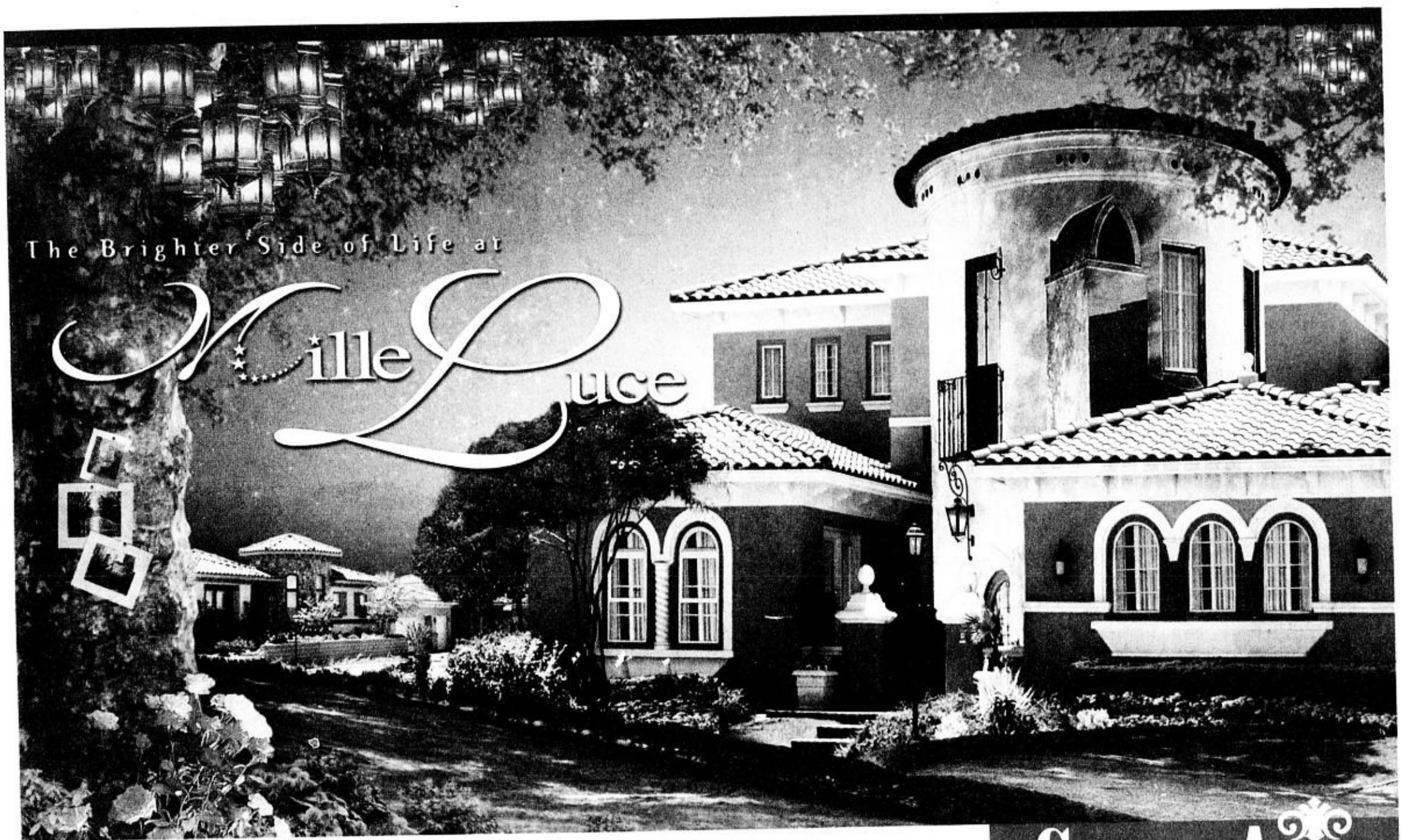
Nestled not very far from the city limits, this suburban community lures and inspires you into the sophistication of rich Italian architecture.

Mille Luce's upland location of wide-open spaces will definitely enhance anyone's propensity for freedom. Residents are offered with romantic feeling of cool climate and picturesque vistas of lake and mountains.

Imbibe your senses to the tranquil invitation of a green landscaped sceneries while taking a leisure walk along the promenades, undisturbed and secured by the round-the-clock security.

In addition to a 15-meter wide Grand Arch entryway and cobblestone driveway, the enclave is filled with scents and sounds of Italy with flowing fountains and shady Mango orchard.

Every stride you make will be greeted by wall-to-wall carpeting of grassland. Shaded by pillars of towering trees. Naturally contoured by dramatic sloping landscape. Engineered with precision.



Crown Asia
Your home of choice

Call: 634 9001 to 02

ITALIAN INSPIRED HOMES. Ornately designed to complement your elegant lifestyle, Mille Luce homes are reminiscent of the classical fusion of urban and country setting.

All model units feature expansive windows and balconies to have more views of Mille Luce's opulent surroundings.

Sophia. A home exudes sophistication from design to function. Standing on a 121 square meter lot, this 3-bedroom heavenly residence is perfect for medium-sized family.

Europa. This 3-bedroom comfy dwelling comes with an enchanting balcony where you can spend more bonding moments with the family.

Dione. With 3 bedrooms on a spacious 150 square meter lot, and extra rooms like the family and study area, growing families will have the luxury of space to move around.

Umbriel. Large families deserve nothing less. This model unit has well-lit 3 bedrooms and scores of house features such as open-type partition and spacious carport. Steel deck floor system is also utilized for an added protective maintenance.

DIFFERENT STROKES FOR DIFFERENT FOLKS. Mille Luce is made up of several phases. All features wide selection of homes available to suit varying needs and lifestyle.

L' Altra. Follow the winding portico drive and you will discover L' Altra. Decked out with a beautiful courtyard exclusive for a privileged few, this terraced site is set at the highest point of Mille Luce with a 360º view of sparkling Laguna de Bay and cityscape.

This phase accommodates a maximum number of 14 houses with two single-detached model units to choose from: ***Althea*** and ***Lavinia***. Both units feature impressive multistory balconies of different heights and range.

With these spacious covered outdoor retreat areas that extend the living space, entertaining is effortless allowing for enjoyment of the magnificent views.

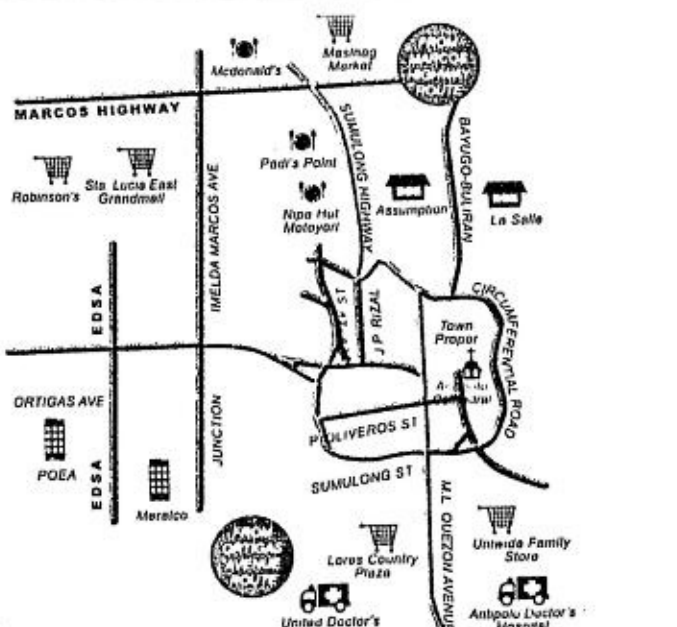
La Scala. Tucked away from the city life, this cluster of multiple family dwelling is set near the clubhouse where you can find the infinity pool that seems to flow endlessly.

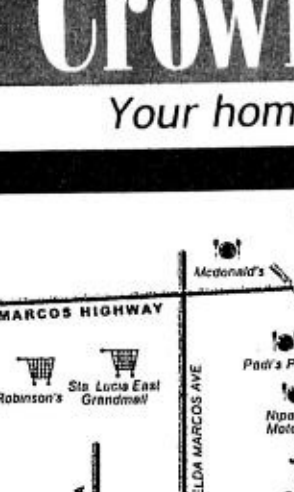
Pastorale. This division is composed of single detached units set amidst teeming orchard. A bright way to guarantee a daily doze of fresh air.

Porte Porteze. A prime commercial area located right at the front row of the village. Now, you need not go far to experience life's simple pleasures. With a hectare of lifestyle shops and restaurants nearby, brighter days are here to stay.

AMENITIES. A MANY OF THESE. You'll never run out of things to do in this exceptional enclave. Indulge yourself to superb amenities at your own pace and time. Rejuvenate your senses while you devour in recreational activities to tone down your tired muscles at the Sports Complex.

When the night comes, you're on a treat of spectacular light display of the constellation and Metro Manila city lights. And as the thousands of lights illuminates where you stand you'll realize you're on the bright side of life.





Come home to Mille Luce

Super

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph
Text us your feedback: inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Editor Pam Pastor
Creative Director Tim Yap

style . urban living . pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Super!Countdown

17 days 'til Bling Day!

Pounce!

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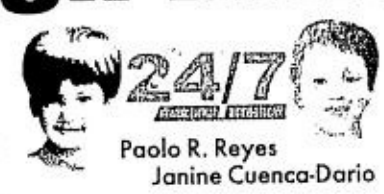
Super! Pinoy Big Brother collectible cards! page D2

Super! exclusive on Pacquiao's party page C3

Nip, tuck and tweak your life in 10 Super! steps page C4

On a high with Pinoy talent



Paolo R. Reyes
Janine Cuenca-Dario

24/7 WAS SURPRISED TO find this spanking new (and usually jampacked) hotspot closed last weekend. It didn't seem to be closed for a private function because the resto-bar was virtually ... uh ... deserted, with only an eerie near-deaf silence greeting us at the glass door. (The fact that we were able to miraculously find parking on the street without any problem should have already given us a major hint.) According to a few faint whispers, noise levels have reached new heights, prompting a nearby residential community to launch a complaint. The good news, we hear, is that the establishment is mounting a mighty comeback very soon!

Terno Au Go Go: Revenge Against The Rain @ Cubao X, 8 p.m. tonight

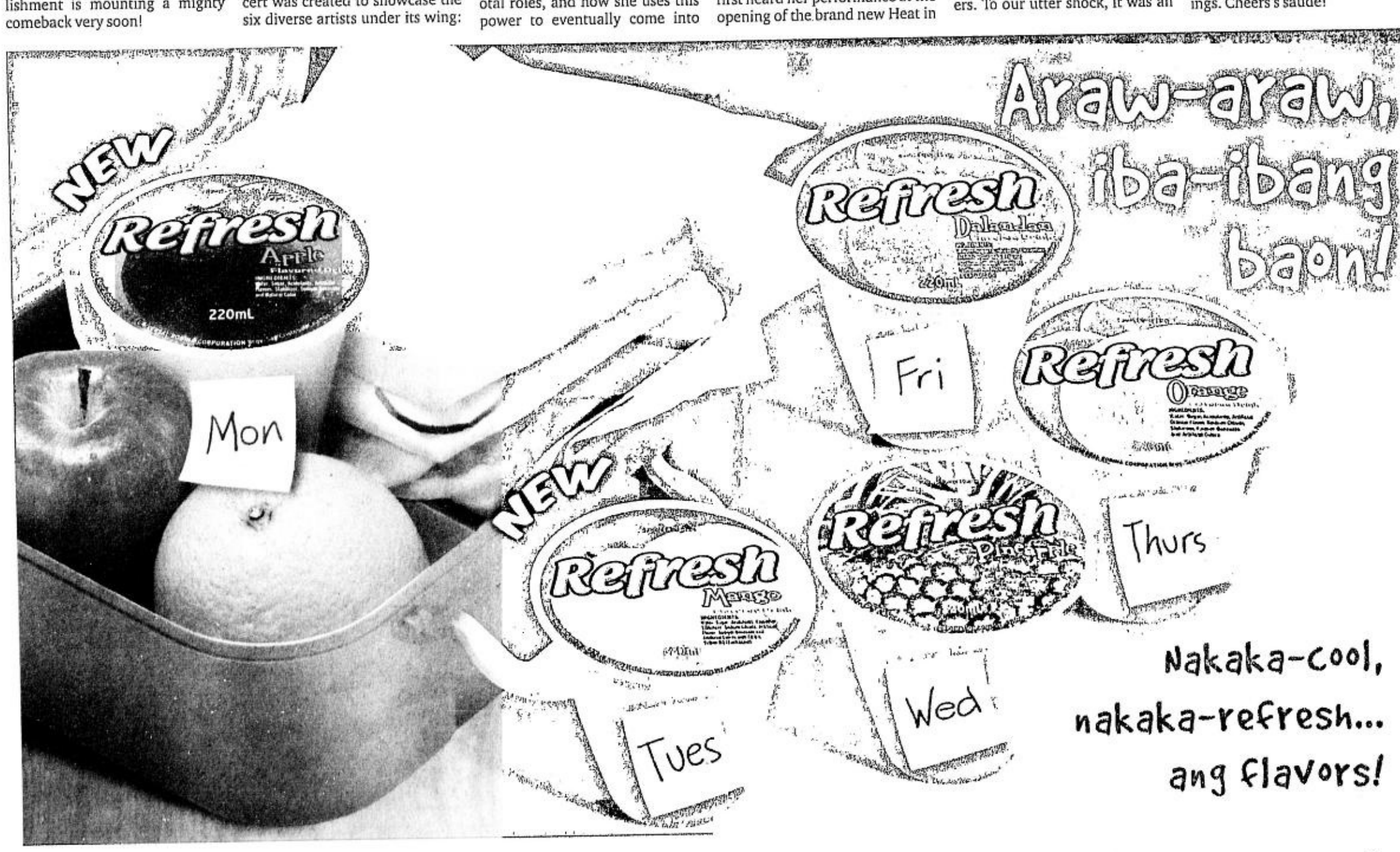
Attracting everyone from mods and punks to college kids and yuppies, the bimonthly party, Terno Au Go Go, is turning out to be one of the most eagerly-awaited Anti-"It" events in town. The label night of music outfit Terno Records, the crowd-drawing concert was created to showcase the six diverse artists under its wing: Radioactive Sago Project, Juan Pablo Dream, Drip, Up Dharma Down, Wahijuara, and Giniling Festival. Catch them tonight, along with 11 guest bands, at Cubao X (Marikina Shoe Expo), Araneta Center, Cubao. (The event also doubles as the launch of UDD's debut album, "Fragmented.") All that for only P50. Not too shabby! Call 844-4656.

Filipinas @ CCP Main Gallery, until March 12

"All my life, I have been fascinated by the Filipina, how she holds power within our societal system, how she manages this power by quietly taking on pivotal roles, and how she uses this power to eventually come into her own," shares photographer Isa Lorenzo, whose one-woman show opened on Thursday at the CCP Main Gallery. On display are intimate portraits of 30 women, chosen for their fine achievements and the influence they exerted on their times. No elaborate costumes, frivolous props or backdrops were used, only B&W film, a simple background, and a classic style of studio photography from the '40s and '50s. Call 832-3702 or visit www.silverlensphoto.com/filipinas.

Nykó Macá @ Saguijo, Feb. 3

We were blown away when we first heard her performance at the opening of the brand new Heat in Edsa Shangri-La, mistakenly assuming that what we were listening to was a compilation of great sounding electronic music piped in through the restaurant's speakers. To our utter shock, it was an actual live performance by Manila's hottest new electronic artist, Nykó Macá. NBC's head honcho, Francis Lumen, who heard them, was converted too. Now experience electrosamba at its wicked best with multi-talented, modern performer Nykó Macá. She has gone traipsing across the globe in search of bossa and back, infusing her classical jazz background with batucada and a few heady strokes of hip-hop-rooted neo-soul. On Friday, bring your passports to Saguijo [7612 Guijo St., San Antonio Vill., Makati, phone: 897-8629] as she takes you straight to the throbbing heart of Brazil through gypsy strings, afro-jazz brass, and cryptic musings. Cheers s saúde!



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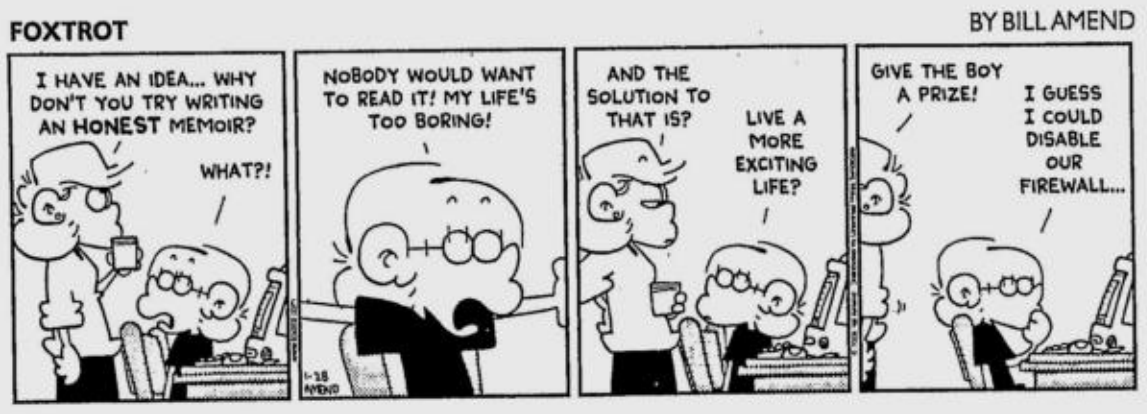


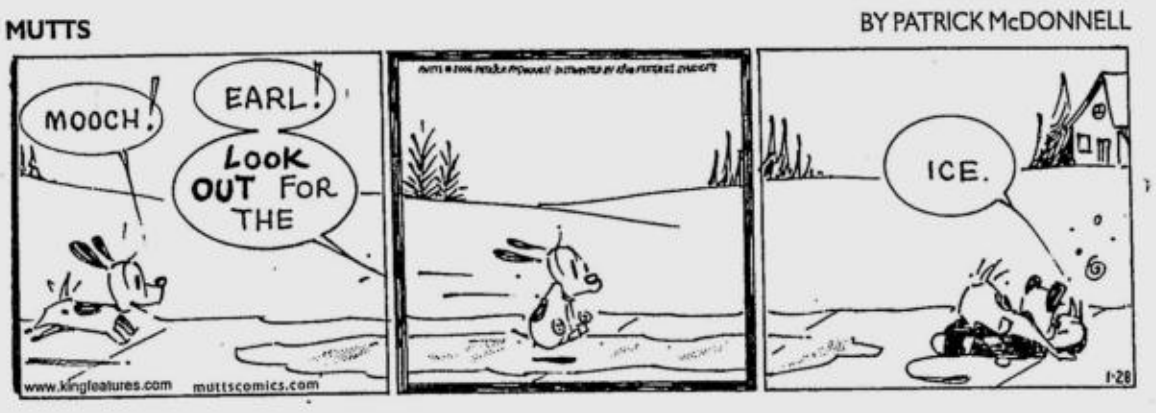
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT

MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL



ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY BY STEVEN PABALINAS

HOROSCOPE

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: Without question, you're individualistic! You're ambitious, determined and very strong-willed. People admire your fine intelligence; however, some view you as eccentric. Most of you hope to accomplish great things. Your success is based on your belief in your abilities. This year could be one of the best years of your life!
Birthdate of: Elijah Wood, actor; Sarah McLachlan, singer; Alan Alda, actor.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): This is a good day to talk to others about your goals and dreams for the future. If you share these private hopes with others, you might get helpful feedback.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Be assertive when talking to parents, bosses and important people. There are four planets at the top of your chart, and this is key to prominence in the eyes of those who have authority. (You can't lose.)

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Accept any travel plans that come your way. You have a strong desire now to broaden your horizons. If you can't travel, then sign up for a course or get extra training to broaden your knowledge of the world.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): You're not satisfied with just superficial explanations today. You want to get to the nitty-gritty of something. You want to know what really went on.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You're a bit obsessed with relationships and partnerships now. You want somebody else on the other end of your teeter-totter. You need some special loving attention.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): Continue to work hard to get better organized. Declutter your life both at home and at work. You'll feel so much better if you do!

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Romance, love affairs, the arts, vacations and professional sports get a big boost this month. Accept all invitations to party. Take a vacation.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Focus on home, family and domestic details now. It's time to sort out your private life and smooth over rough patches with family members.

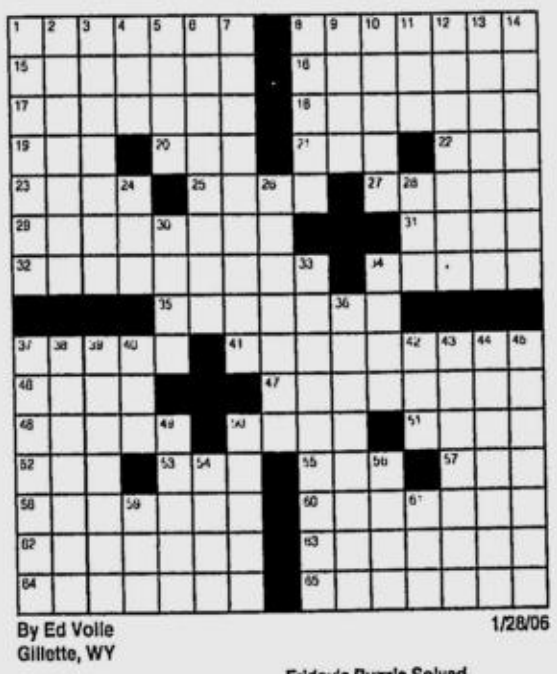
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You always want to know the answers to the big questions in life. Today you might discover some of these. Increased time with siblings and relatives will please you now.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your focus is very strongly on finances now. In large measure, your earnings and your possessions give you security. You need security. You don't take money issues lightly.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): This is a very strong time for you because there are three planets in your sign, including the Sun. It's totally appropriate now to put yourself first.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): As your birthday approaches, it means your year is ending. Look back over this past year and see how well you are doing at the art of living.

DAILY CROSSWORD



By Ed Volle
Gillette, WY

1/28/06

ACROSS
1 Cringed in fear
8 Rifts
15 Ear shell
16 Of the seventh planet
17 Schedules anew
18 Tropical grassland
19 TV innards
20 Muscle spasm
21 First name in honesty
22 Long-snouted fish
23 Woe is me
25 Ager of parents?
27 Nick of filmdom
29 Observation
31 Diviner
32 Looked upon with contempt
34 Desert stopovers
35 Futile
37 Quivered
41 Midriff
46 Saline drop
47 Store of valuables
48 Measure of purity
50 __-majesty
51 Islands off Ireland
52 Med. feeders
53 PFC's entertainment
55 Dog tags, briefly
57 Terminate
58 Strongly disposed
60 19th-century London prison
62 London stage
63 Backstabber
64 Addresses for young boys
65 Old-time inn employees

DOWN
1 Slaughtered animal's body
2 First coed college in the U.S.
3 Loss by wear
4 New wing on a plant
5 Underground development
6 Beings
7 Came down
8 Sarandon of "Bull Durham"
9 Sliding crustacean
10 Port in a storm
11 Balin or Claire
12 Unmarried people
13 Sea cow
14 Trappers
24 Haggard woman
26 Middle word of a French motto
28 Explorer Johnson
30 Island group in the Caroline Islands
33 Rips open
34 Workplace watchdog grp.
36 Hasty drivers
37 __ and Nevis
38 Bum's rush
39 Rowers
40 Mouths: Lat.
42 N. Mandela's country
43 Gilded
44 Benefactor
45 Repairers
49 Little Richard hit, "__ Frutti"
50 Mine bonanzas
54 Dried up
56 Thwack
59 Knut Hamsun novel
61 Hodges of the Dodgers

Friday's Puzzle Solved

H	A	S	P	S	■	O	M	A	N	■	S	T	I	R
I	G	L	O	O	■	P	U	M	A	■	I	O	T	A
M	A	I	N	T	A	I	N	A	B	U	D	G	E	T
O	N	C	D	■	M	A	C	H	■	S	E	A	M	S
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M	A	R	S	H	■	■	E	N	D	S	M	E	E	T
E	G	O	■	■	L	O	T	U	S	■	■	I	R	A
S	A	V	E	F	O	R	A	■	■	S	P	L	I	T
A	R	E	A	R	U	G	■	C	H	I	A	■	■	■
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1/28/06

MIKROKOSMOS BY JOMIKE TEJIDO

BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

Pakyaw, Pacquiao!

Text and photos by Lounell Correa
Super! Contributor

LAS VEGAS WAS THE PLACE to be last weekend as the Philippine's top businessmen, politicians and entertainment personalities, trooped to the Sin City to watch and support Manny Pacquiao in his highly publicized rematch with Erik "El Terrible" Morales.

Pacquiao was billeted in a huge two-bedroom suite at the magnificent Wynn Resort Hotel and Casino, said to be the most expensive and luxurious hotel on the Strip. A special blessing after the Mass was given to Manny and the other Filipino fighter of the night, Jimrex Jaca.

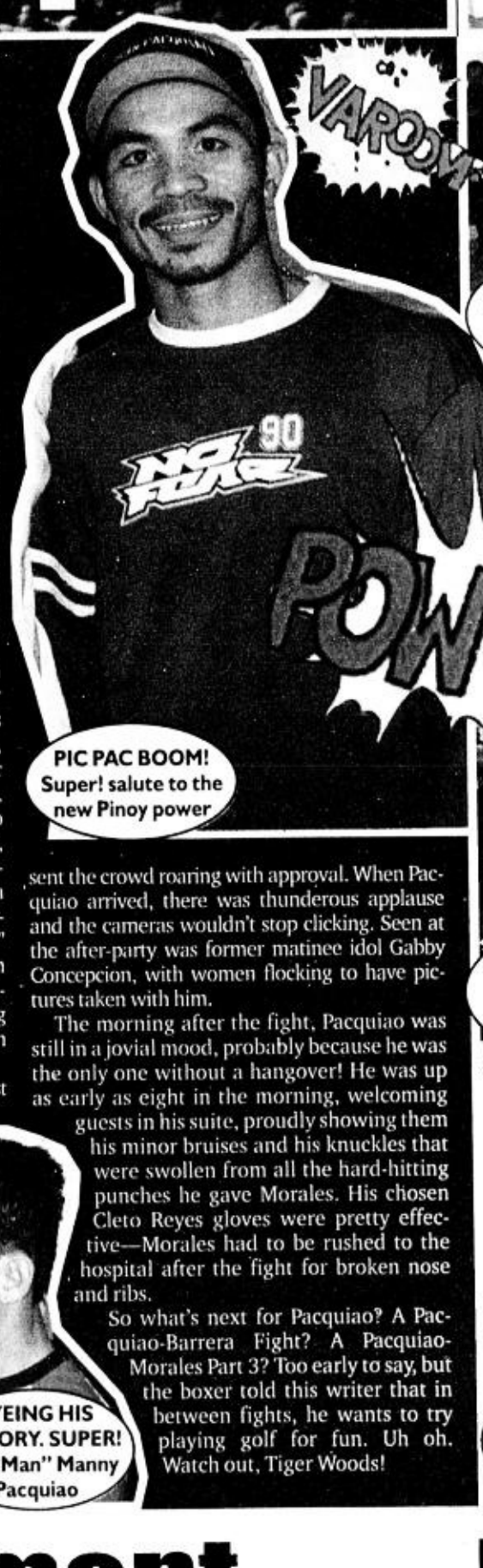
The Thomas and Mack Arena at the UNLV Compound was filled to the rafters that night, with tickets priced as high as $500 selling out days before the fight.

Seen at the fight were First Gentleman Mike Arroyo and son Mikey, MMDA Chair Bayani Fernando with a few Manila mayors (straight from the Vancouver Conference), Games and Amusement Board Chair Eric Buhain, Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis Chavit Singson, Rizal Gov. Casimiro Ynares, and Sen. Lito Lapid. Also seen were singer Martin Nievera, actor Rudy Fernandez, Jackie & Dyan Castillejo, Marc Nelson with girlfriend Priscilla Meirelles (Miss Earth 2004). Also at the ringside to support the Filipino "southern paw" were World Wrestling champion Christian Cage and Filipino-Hawaiian boxer Brian Viloria, who will be defending his World Boxing Council Light Flyweight title at the Aladdin Hotel & Casino in Las Vegas on Feb. 18.

The main victory party was held at the hottest nightspot in town, Lure, at the Wynn Hotel. People queued for hours in front of the club, hoping to get in and catch a glimpse of the newly installed Super Featherweight Champ. Inside, guests danced the night away and partied like there was no tomorrow, enjoying the free-flowing Dom Perignon. The Black-Eyed Peas' hit "Bebot" was played and the Filipino lyrics sent the crowd roaring with approval. When Pacquiao arrived, there was thunderous applause and the cameras wouldn't stop clicking. Seen at the after-party was former matinee idol Gabby Concepcion, with women flocking to have pictures taken with him.

The morning after the fight, Pacquiao was still in a jovial mood, probably because he was the only one without a hangover! He was up as early as eight in the morning, welcoming guests in his suite, proudly showing them his minor bruises and his knuckles that were swollen from all the hard-hitting punches he gave Morales. His chosen Cleto Reyes gloves were pretty effective—Morales had to be rushed to the hospital after the fight for broken nose and ribs.

So what's next for Pacquiao? A Pacquiao-Barrera Fight? A Pacquiao-Morales Part 3? Too early to say, but the boxer told this writer that in between fights, he wants to try playing golf for fun. Uh oh. Watch out, Tiger Woods!



Solitary Refinement

From page C4

the Conceptual Age," speaks of the advantages of right-brain traits like artistry and empathy over left-brain characteristics like mastery of math and hard sciences.

But Pink also cautions that "if you have only right-brain abilities and no left-brain abilities, then there's a threat. In fact, it's not even a threat. You simply have no chance. So in creative professions, if people aren't also numeric, they are in for trouble."

At any rate, trend analysts like Nextpert's David Post believe that we should expect "a boom in expression in all sectors, not just the arts. The new elite will be those whose creativity changed, improved, or touched our lives." Since the MFA is the new MBA, the wave of the future is to...

7 Become culturally creative

Anthropologist Paul Ray says "cultural creatives" or "trans-modernists" loosely adhere to humanistic/spiritual ideals and lifestyles that are eco-friendly. Numbering to about 50 million in North America and millions more around the world, cultural creatives get out of global financial markets and corporate-driven consumerism and create their own economies by buying local and buying green. After all, these days...

8 It's not about money. It's about style

Putumayo World Music was established in 1993 and has become known primarily for upbeat compilations of cool international music. Their CD covers feature the distinctive art of Nicola Heindl and connect the traditional to the contemporary. By combining appealing music and visuals with creative retail marketing, Putumayo's brand identity is an about-face to today's artist-based music industry—a refreshingly bold move. Building a world music library is a good idea now because...

9 Indie has become the new mainstream

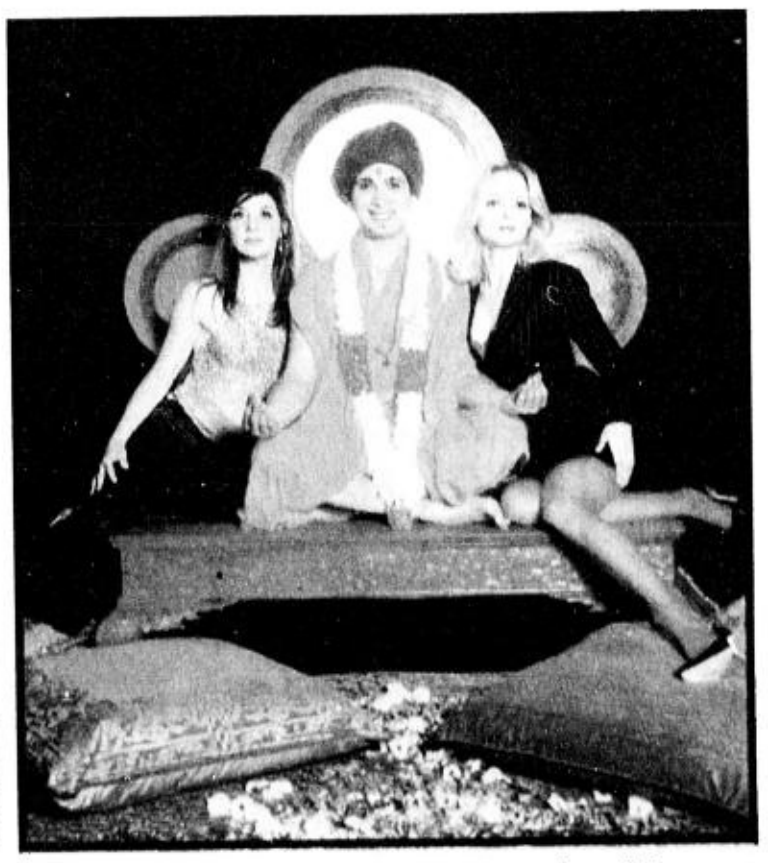
In the Philippines, bands that were once upstarts—Sugarfree, Parokya ni Edgar, Bamboo and Rivermaya—are now huge and considered mainstream. It seems that guerrilla or low-budget filmmaking will follow the same route. Now that the underground has risen to the surface, is the center the new edge? At any rate, these are exciting times in Pinoy pop culture so, as with anything, I advise you to gather all the info first then...

10 Edit, edit, edit

Again, as trends change with the times, *opinionistas* now give us three sort-of-new key words: "Less of more." Mind you, not less is more, or more is more. But less of more.

What does this all mean? Shop-till-you-drop excess will subside in retail, a quieter, more personal and handcrafted kind of luxury will replace obvious logomania in fashion, and high-end consumers will spend less on status objects and more on out-of-the-way experiences, like travel, dining, and entertainment.

Applying this final tip to your life, it just means that you should scale it down to what really matters. Something to think about, eh? At least for me, I've decided to cut out the negative so I could finally—and rightfully—focus on the positive. Like, om...



AND I THOUGHT A YOGI WAS A BEAR. The road to enlightenment is a bumpy one.

Solitary Refinement

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

Wanna, like, make yourself over? Then nip, tuck and tweak your life in 10 Super! easy steps

EVER SINCE I TURNED 18, I'VE USED my birthday as an opportunity to sponge off the writings of Mirra Richard, a French yogi from the spiritual pilgrimage site of Tamil Nadu, India. According to her, each year, on a person's birthday, the soul ascends, "merges into the Source in order to replenish itself" and "comes down charged for a whole year to pass."

Psych! I so do not. Sorry to short-circuit that fantasy.

This isn't to say, however, that I have never tried to do so, or that I'm poking fun at our yogi's benevolent elephant-style wisdom. It's just that, from what I've discovered, the road to enlightenment is a bumpy one, jampacked with celebrity gossip websites, empty beer cans, and sometimes, phony love affairs with chicks who give excellent hand jobs in dimly-lit restaurants. I may have just shared way too much there, but whatever.

After marking yet another crazy Me Year a couple weeks ago, it hit me that 2006 seems to be a bit different. Eyes closed and everything, I realized I was ripe enough for the amazing amazingness of the Zen-ish help-yourself journey I've been aching to start since the latter part of the boyband era. (Maybe I'm finally growing up. Or watching too much "Dr. Phil." Or finally growing up. Mommy!)

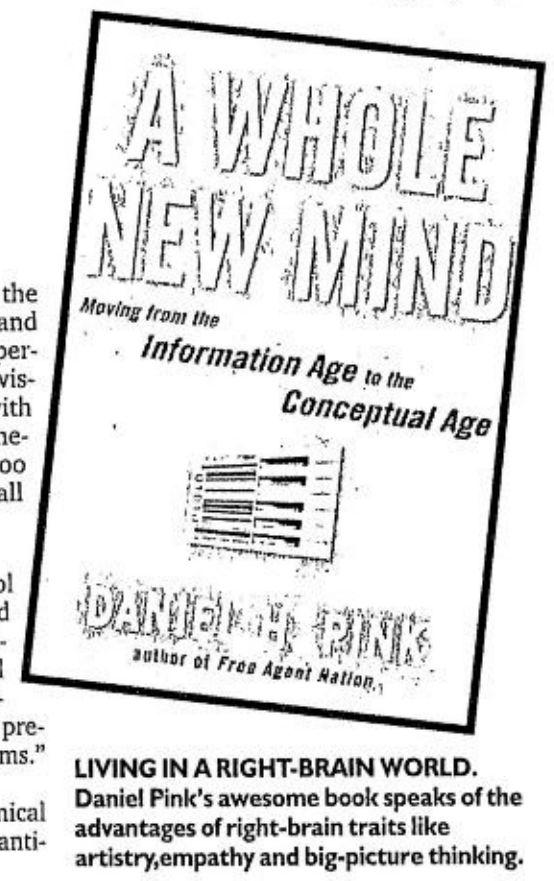
So, gleaning existential caviar from the likes of Lao Tzu, Vivienne Westwood and even Jay-Z, I'm dispatching a list of ten personal maxims—my own words of wisdumb—that will have you buzzing with glass-half-full energy in no time. Or something to that effect. Like, life is way too short to be caught up in a fug so, by all means:

1 Don't worry, be healthy

Ever wonder why high school cheerleaders are always perky? And hot? It's 'cause they exercise! A recent study published in the British Journal of Sports Medicine reveals "physical exercise has a valid place in the treatment and prevention of some mental health problems." Shocking!

Scientists may have identified a chemical which could explain why exercise is an antidepressant. Phenylethylamine is a naturally produced chemical that has been linked to the regulation of physical energy, mood and attention. Ooh.

Take it from me. Peeps who hit the gym regularly—and watch what they eat while they're at it—are more bouncy and less neurotic than those who don't. Speaking of the gym, cardio time flies superhero fast whenever I'm sweating to great tunes on my iPod so if I were you, I'd also...



LIVING IN A RIGHT-BRAIN WORLD. Daniel Pink's awesome book speaks of the advantages of right-brain traits like artistry,empathy and big-picture thinking.

2 Download something new

There are days when I battle music ennui and when that happens, I go to epitonic.com. It's an awesome site where you can download free and legal MP3s from leftfield heroes such as Cat Power, Low and Hot Hot Heat, among others. Epitonic also has its own radio station where you can educate yourself with jams from other genres like breakbeat, hiphop and math rock.

If you wanna research more about other bands that sound like your fave acts, hit up pandora.com. Aside from analyzing an artist's musical style, they'll give you a rundown of songs that are closely related to those you already like. Okay, since you're already online, why don't you stay a bit longer and...

3 Go off the grid

New7wonders.com offers you the opportunity to participate in the first-ever global vote to elect the New 7 Wonders of the World. Culminating in a live, worldwide, telecast on Jan. 1, 2007 to announce the winners, the selection process began early this year. Some of the 21 new generation nominees are the Easter Island statues in Chile, the Eiffel Tower in Paris, and the Taj Mahal in India. Yay! If all that talk about travel got you wired, don't stop and continue to...

4 Inspire yourself

I'm kinda—*cough*— artistic and spacey so it's totally rad to have a thing that I can focus on which, at the same time, focuses me. I've learned that, ultimately, it's up to you to find out what makes you happy. It's futile and sometimes tragic to look for validation from another person. What Renée Zellwegger said in "Jerry Maguire" eons ago is dead wrong. No one should "complete" you as you should already complete yourself.

Anyway, whether it's dark chocolate, vintage Sharon Cuneta movies, or taxidermy that floats your boat, go do it. For your own sake. But if this piece of golden advice proves to be a little too late, then...

5 No regrets, just experience

Like any achievement-oriented kiddo, I set really high standards and expectations for myself. Really. And when things don't go as planned—whether it's a trip, a presentation or whatever project—I get seriously bummed out. Like Christain-Bale-in-"American Psycho" bummed out.

But that was the old me. After getting robbed while backpacking in the Middle East, seeing a drive-by shooting victim breathe his last in Colombia, and living in other "interesting" (meaning "oddball") places, nothing fazes me as much and I've become more laidback because of it. In fact, whenever I face a seemingly torture-filled stressfest, I summon my streetwise state of mind and mentally jam to Jay-Z's "Get That Dirt Off Your Shoulder." See, when it comes to personal problem-solving, it pays to...

6 Live in a right-brain world

According to author and former political speechwriter Daniel Pink, "the demand for logical, linear left-brain people is shifting in favor of abilities like creativity, empathy and big-picture right-brain thinkers." His book, "A Whole New Mind: Moving from the Information Age to

SOLITARY/ C3

WORLD BEAT. Putumayo Music's main market consists of cultural creatives.

MOTOROLA
motorola PEBL
smooth opening, tactile design.
use your voice to dial hands-free.
replay your memories on video.
be elegantly wire-free with Bluetooth™ connectivity.
fill your phone at hellomoto.com/ph

E-mail: super@inquirer.com.ph

Text us your feedback: inquirer sup name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

style . urban living .

pop culture . entertainment . recreation

Big Brother, The Gathering

Story on page D2

Nene, Sam, Say, Uma, Cass, Jason, Franzen, Jenny, Bob, Raquel, Rico, Chx and JB — yes the housemates are here!

To our Super! readers, for you to cut and clip—your own Super! Pinoy Big Brother collectible cards. Pit them against each other, play solitaire or poker, make them wrestle for the ultimate Pinoy Big Battle!

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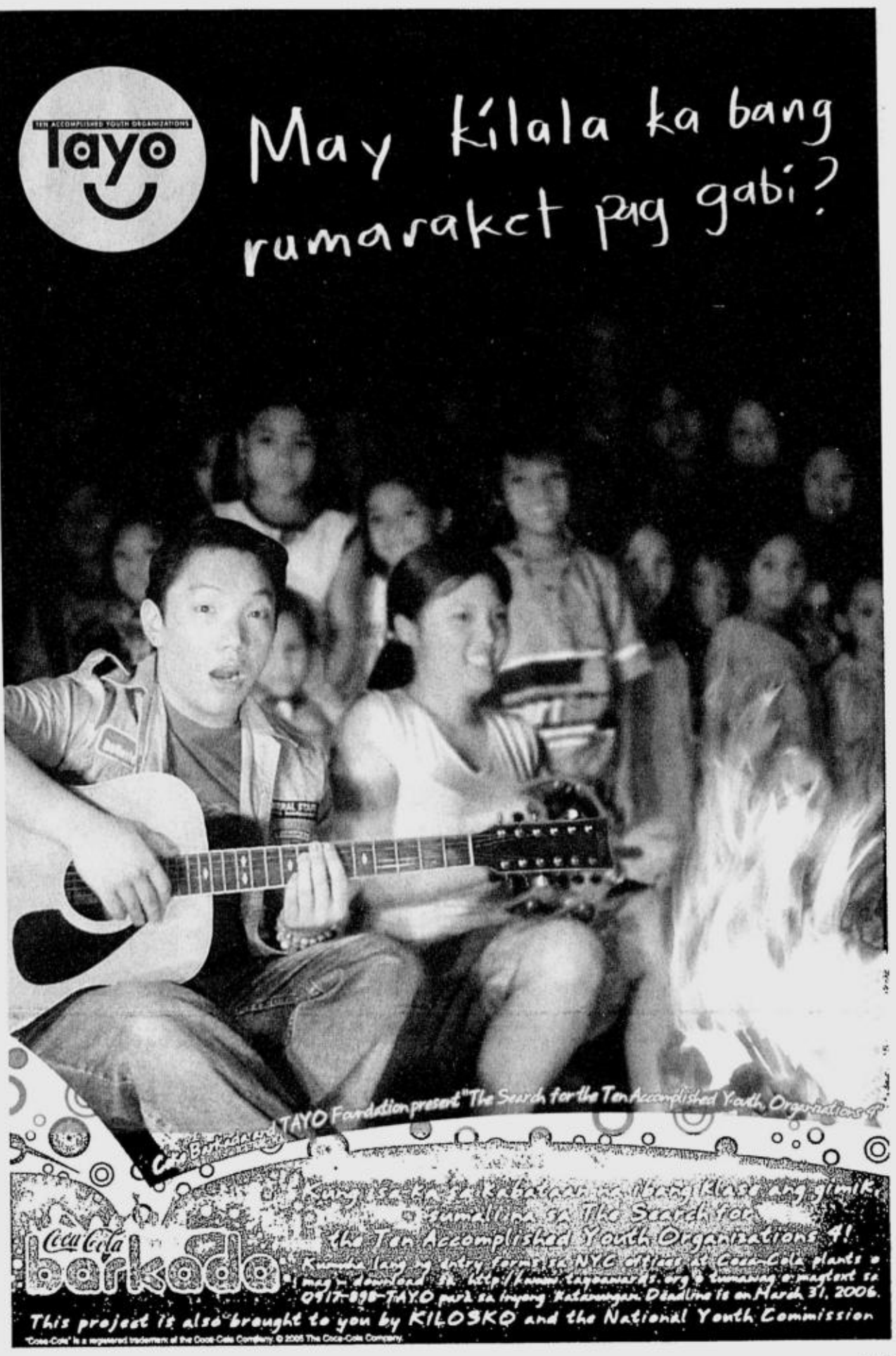
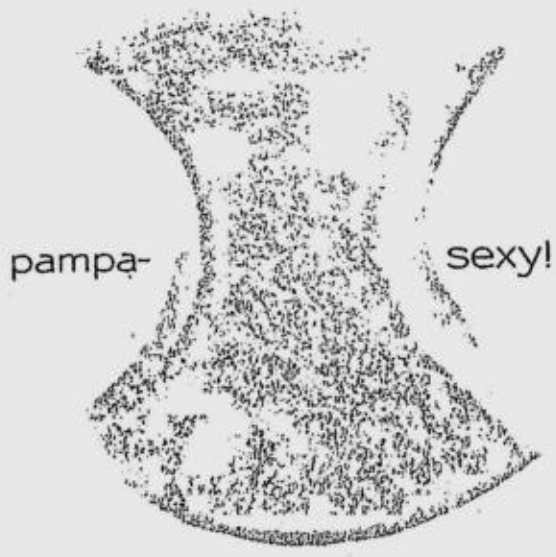
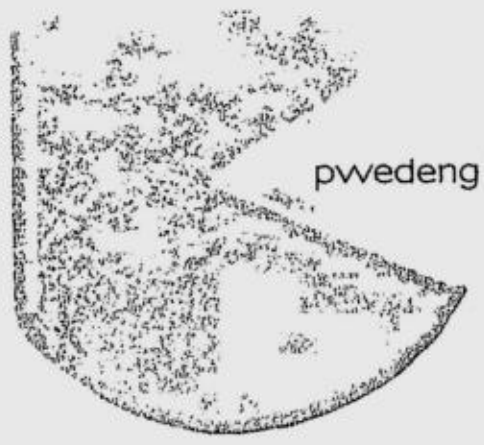


pwedeng all-day
pwedeng all-night



pampa- sexy!



pwedeng lu-MAMON!

Goldilocks new sugar-free MAMON

Dahil sarap ay sugar-free, pwedeng makarami. Made with Sucralose, the low-calorie sweetener.

STRIKING HEROINE

Nene

EMINENT LIONHEART

Sam

SPUNKY DAMSEL

Say

B

Tho

BRINGING THE brood together is an impossible Ever since they step house, they have be arrest, by the adori couldn't get enough o

Such is the reality of every ty that when presented wit utes, it's do or die. Either y solve into obsolescence. "I joining show biz, but since ready here, then might as first heiress of the house.

If you think the Pinoy nomenon is "so late," tha guess again. The 13 people per! exclusive shoot are just

SLENDER ROUGE

Franken

DAUNTLESS PARAGON

Jinny

VALIANT HOMBRE

Bob

SHARP SAMURAI

Rico

MATADOR'S MUSE

Chx

DAREDEVIL BLOKE

JB

Produced by TIM YAP • Photography: STEVE TIRONA • Photography Assistants: KIKO ESCORA and VERNON PEREZ • Makeup: JIGS MAYUGA, CINDY PINEDA, and YZA PALMERO for Shu Uemura
Styling: CORINE ALEGRE and PATRICK TY assisted by ALVIN CHINGCUANCO • Weapon Styling: MONZIT PURUGGANAN • Sittings Editor: DAVID MILAN
Special thanks to DEO ENDRINAL, The Fort Bonifacio Development Authority and the office of MAYOR FRED TINGA and BECCA TINGA

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

NIMROD COMBATANT

Age: 24
Weapon: Knife
Uma Barum

My best ever outfit consisted of... my birthday suit.
If money was no option... I'll share.
The thing that makes my life worth living is... my mom.
The worst thing somebody said about me was... I was lazy.
My current state of mind is... dazzled, amazed.

Uma

GUTSY DAME

Age: 23
Weapon: Ax
Cassandra Ponti

The thing about fame is that... everybody is your friend.
The worst thing that ever happened to me was... being in love with my best friend.
The secret to happiness is... reality.
I aspire to be... an international model.

Cass

FETCHING TROUPER

Age: 25
Weapon: Metal saw
Jayson Gainza

The thing I love most about what I do is... making other people laugh.
People might be surprised to know that... I'm a simple person with ambition.
The worst thing that ever happened to me was... when my wife raped me.
The world would be a much better place if... people are not wearing any clothes.

Jayson

Big Brother, Gathering

BIG BROTHER
under one roof
feat these days.
ped out of the
en under house
ng public who
them.
reality show celebri-
their next 15 min-
u take it or you dis-
wasn't planning on
he opportunity is al-
vell," said Nene, the

Big Brother phe-
it's so 2005, then
gathered in this Su-
getting started. Per-

Tim Yap

haps, for some, the show was just a means to springboard their careers. Sam is on a roll with several endorsements. Uma and Cass are about to shoot the remake of "Blusang Itim." And all of them are on major rotation in numerous ABS-CBN shows. Notice that I am on first name basis with all of them—since they have been all over the pop culture radar, it feels like they are part of every Pinoy household.

At the Super! shoot, like in any reality show, the housemates were naturally animated, being used to having cameras all around them. Nonetheless, I felt that they were a very sincere lot, just your average everyday people, who want to make it in life. Hanging out with them, you must expect the unexpected. The craziest events unfolded during the course of this shoot. And everything was caught on tape. See the behind the scenes action from this shoot, plus all the teevee-rrific twists and turns on MTV Bling (my new show!) which premieres this Feb. 14. The Pinoy Bling Brother special airs on the second episode come Feb. 21 (MTV Bling airs every Tuesday at 11 p.m., with replays on Thursdays at 8 p.m. and Saturdays at 3:30 p.m.).

And, for our dear Super! readers, here are Super! Pinoy Big Brother collectible cards for your cutting and clipping pleasure. Each character is equipped with its own Super! powers for you to play with. Pit them against one another, play solitaire or poker and make them wrestle in the ultimate Pinoy Big Battle!

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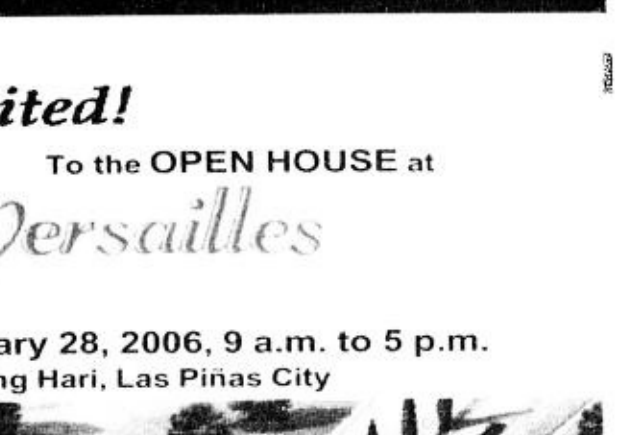

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Big Brother, The Gathering

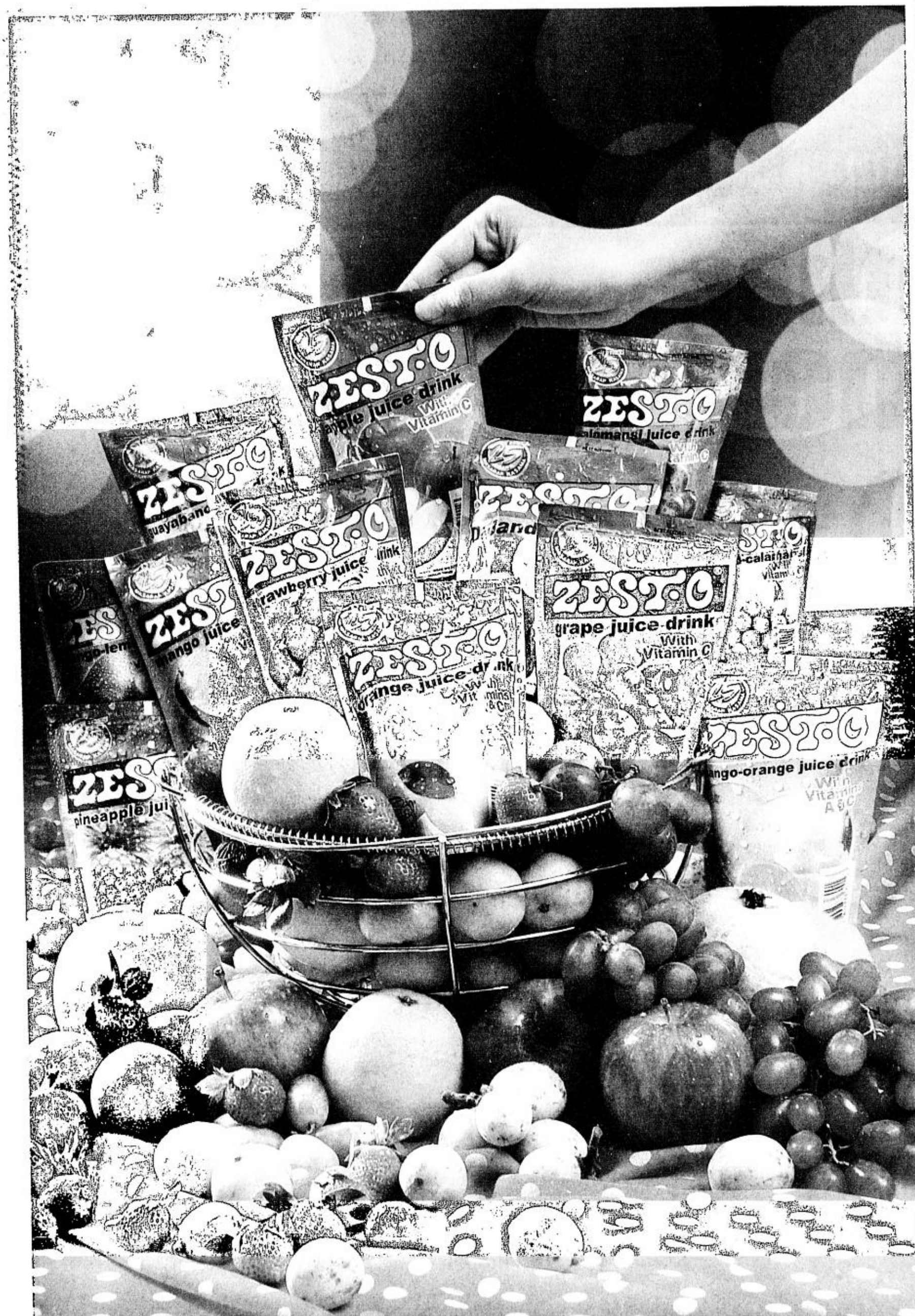
Hanging out with them, you must expect the unexpected. The craziest events unfolded during the course of this shoot. And everything was caught on tape

Nene

The thing about fame is that ... not everyone can have it.
The most important thing I've ever learned is that ... life is full of mysteries and surprises.
I wish when I started off I've been told to ... be careful.
The thing that makes me most angry is ... injustice.
When I retire, I would like ... to be an educator.
I aspire to be ... a good leader.

Sam

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that ... I got heartbroken.
And what this taught me was ... there is no love without pain.
My best ever outfit consisted of ... being bare-naked. Haha. Joke *lang*.
The soundtrack to my life would include ... Time of Your Life.
If I was invisible for a day, I would ... go skinny dipping.



Jayson

If I was the most powerful person on earth ... I will transfer to Mars or Jupiter.
The thing that makes my life worth living is ... knowing that hope is always here.
My 5 favorite words are ... eat, sleep, sex, handsome, sexy.
The worst thing somebody said about me was ... I'm plastic.
My favorite moments are when ... I'm with my family.

Say

The thing about fame is that ... sometimes people mistake you as their property and don't care about your feelings.
I wish when I started off I've been told to ... be on the safe side.
The worst thing that ever happened to me was that ... I got my heart broken for the third time in a row.
People might be surprised to know that ... I eat *isaw* and *kwek-kwek*.
The soundtrack to my life would include ... Cry and Only Hope by Mandy Moore.

Uma

If I was invisible for a day, I would ... walk around naked.
If I was the most powerful person on earth ... I'll show compassion to the lowest person.
My favorite moments are when ... I'm home with my mom.
The thing about fame is that ... it's overrated.
I'm saving up for ... BMW X-5 car.

Cass

People might be surprised to know that ... I am not a party goer.
The thing that makes me most angry is ... when someone cheated on me.
The worst thing somebody said about me was ... I was the cheapest person he ever knew.
My current state of mind is ... my career.

Franzen

My biggest indulgence is ... eating a lot.
If someone would play me in my biopic it would be ... Brad Pitt.
I aspire to be ... a famous celebrity.
My favorite moments are when ... I met my wife and my child was born.
My favorite words are ... *kosa*, strategy, wow.

Jenny

When I retire, I would like ... to put up my own business.
The thing that makes my life worth living is ... being with my son, my husband and family.
If someone would play me in my biopic it would be ... Demi Moore.

Bob

If I was invisible for a day, I would ... go inside President GMA and Mike Arroyo's room and see what they're doing.
When I'm gone, they'll probably say ... Bobbilicious is a really nice and cool guy.
If money was no option ... I'll buy Glorietta, Greenbelt and Powerplant.
When I retire, I would like ... to live and work in a farm.
I aspire to be ... a good politician.

Racquel

The thing about fame is that ... you're owned by the people.
People might be surprised to know that ... I'm really super *kalog* and *pilya*.
When I'm gone, they'll probably say ... we miss her smile.

Rico

The thing about fame is that ... no one knows when it will last.
The worst thing that ever happened to me was ... doing a scandal with the dog in the Big Brother house.
My biggest indulgence is ... putting liquid blush on my cheeks.

Chx

People might be surprised to know that ... I'm just an ordinary girl.
The worst thing that ever happened to me was that ... I've been misunderstood by many.
And what this taught me was ... patience.
If I was invisible for a day, I would ... beat child rapists to death.

JB

My current state of mind is ... there's no way to go but up.
My most embarrassing moment was when ... I was accused of cheating on a girl on national TV.
People might be surprised to know that ... I am a very simple person. I never fail to keep my chin up despite the controversies around me.
I aspire to be ... a public servant.

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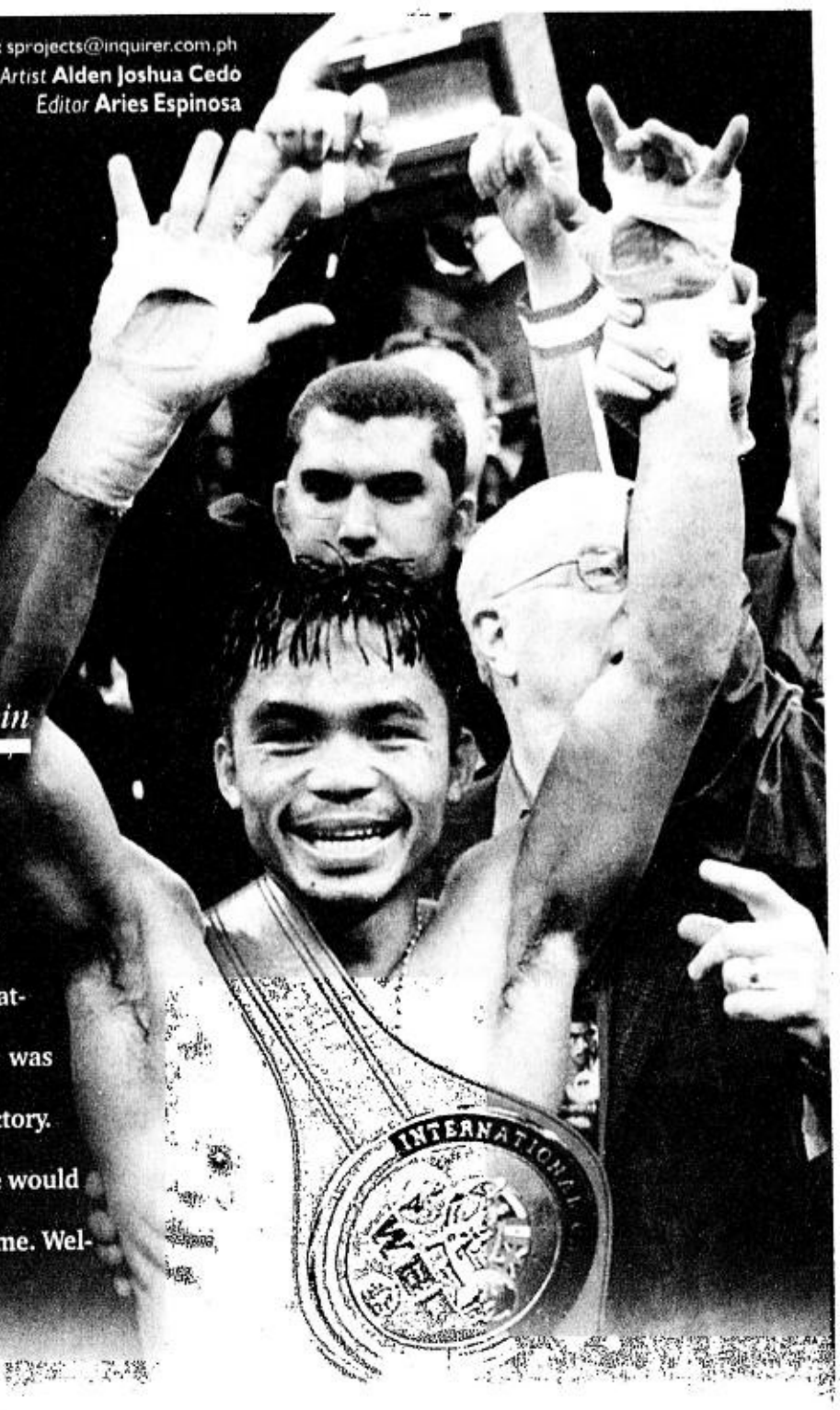
A fighter comes home

'A hero has faced it all: he need not be undefeated, but he must be undaunted'

-- Andrew Bernstein



Manny Pacquiao, at 27, must have felt what Atlas did when he literally carried the planet on his shoulders. In Manny's case, though, he just had to shoulder a small country of 80 million.

Still, what a heavy weight that was. The burden made him pray to high heavens. It made him break into song, like a suitor serenading a beautiful country lass. "*Para sa 'yo, ang laban na 'to...*" The Rey Valera-like voice seemed to implore the recipient to appreciate his efforts, while seeking reassurance that, should he fail in his mission, the lady would not think less of him.

At the 34th second past the 2nd minute of the 10th round, the future was ascertained. The weight was lifted from Manny's battle-weary body. And he was lifted up by his team in victory.

Win or lose, Manny, we would have done exactly the same. Welcome home.

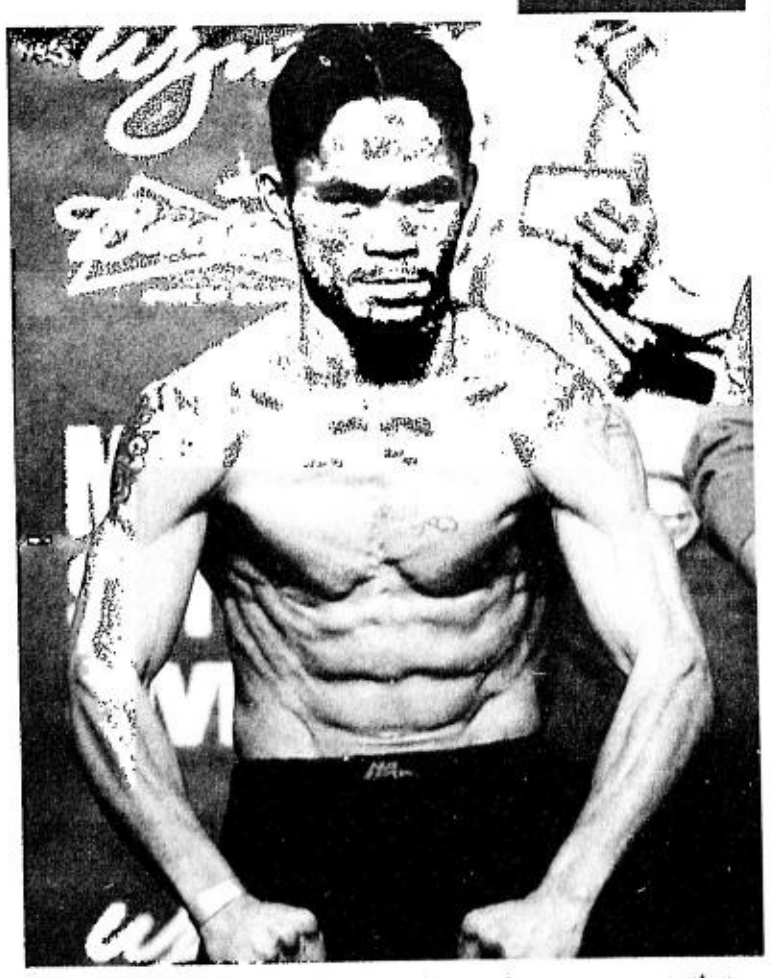
Boxing history, as illustrated by Manny and Erik

THE EUPHORIA OVER MANNY PACQUIAO'S sensational victory over Mexican Erik Morales has spawned renewed interest in the sport of boxing. Here, from Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia on the Internet, is a crash course on boxing history, spiced up with some images from the classic rivalry between the two boxing greats.

Boxing, nicknamed the "sweet science" and "the sport of kings" is also called pugilism or prizefighting, is a sport where two participants of similar weight attack each other with their fists in a series of two to three-minute intervals called "rounds". In both amateur and professional divisions, the combatants (called boxers or fighters) avoid their opponent's punches whilst trying to land punches of their own. Points are awarded for clean, solid blows to the legal area on the front of the opponent's body above the waistline, with hits to the head and torso especially valuable. The fighter with the most points after the scheduled number of rounds is declared the winner. Victory may also be achieved if the opponent is knocked down and unable get up before the referee counts to ten (a knockout, or KO) or if the opponent is deemed too injured to continue (a Technical Knockout, or TKO).

Points are awarded for clean, solid blows to the legal area on the front of the opponent's body above the waistline, with hits to the head and torso especially valuable

BOXING/ E2



MANNY displays rock-solid form, and a warning to opponents that aiming for his 'bodega' would be a waste of time.

MOTOLITE
MAS PANGMATAGALAN
PACMAN'S SECRET WEAPON!

Photo courtesy of PDI
NAGULAT ANG LAHAT SA LAKAS AT TIBAY NG MGA SUNTOK NI PACMAN NG PATUMBAHIN NYA SI MORALES...
ANG SIKRETO ...
MAY NAKAKABIT NA BATERYANG MOTOLITE SA PWET NI PACMAN!!!
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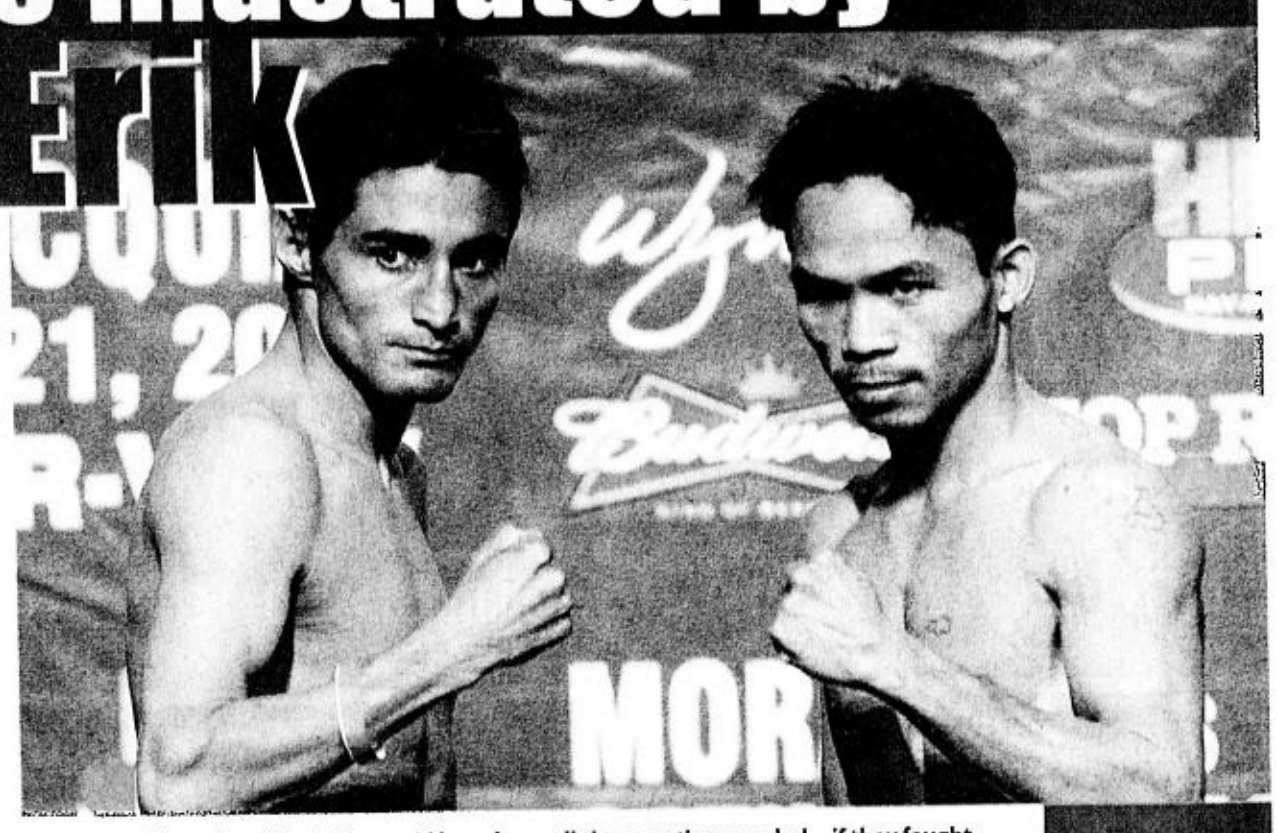
Boxing history, as illustrated by Manny and Erik



NAKED and bare-knuckled, this would have been all the gear they needed—if they fought 3,000 years earlier.

From page E1

Origins

Earliest evidence suggests that boxing was prevalent in North Africa during 4000 BC and the Mediterranean in 1500 BC.

A Greek ruler named Thesus, who ruled around 900 B.C., was entertained by men who would be seated in front of each other and beat another with their fists until one of them was killed. In time, the fighters fought on their feet and wore gloves (not padded) and wrappings on their arms below the elbows, but were otherwise naked when competing. First accepted as an Olympic sport (the ancient Greeks called it Pygme/ Pygmachia) in 688 BC, participants in the ancient games trained on punching bags (called a korykos). Keeping their fingers free, fighters then wore leather straps (called himantes) on their hands, wrists, and sometimes lower arms, to protect them from injury.

In Ancient Rome, fighters were usually criminals and slaves. They hoped to become champions and gain their freedom. However, free men also fought. Eventually, fist fighting became so popular that even aristocrats started fighting, but that was banned by the ruler Augustus. In 500 A.D., the sport was banned by Theodoric the Great.

London Prize Ring rules (1839)

Records of boxing activity disappeared after the fall of the Roman Empire. The sport would later resurface in England during the early 18th century in the form of bare-knuckle prizefighting. The first documented account of a bare-knuckle fight in England appeared in 1681 in the "London Protestant Mercury," and the first English bare-knuckle champion was James Figg in 1719. This is also the time when the word "boxing" first came to be used.

Early bare-knuckle fighting was crude with no written rules. There were no weight divisions, round limits and no referee. Modern rules banning gouging, grappling, biting, headbutting, fish-hooking and blows below the belt were absent.

The first boxing rules were introduced by heavyweight champion Jack Broughton in 1743 to protect fighters in the ring where deaths sometimes occurred. Under these rules, if a man went down and could not continue after a count of 30 seconds, the fight was over. Hitting a downed fighter and grasping below the waist were prohibited. Broughton also invented "mufflers" (padded gloves), which were used in training and exhibitions.

In 1839, the London Prize Ring rules were introduced which superceded Jack Broughton's rules. Later revised in 1853, they stipulated the following:

- Fights occur in a 24-foot-square ring surrounded by ropes.
- If a fighter was knocked down, he must rise within 30 seconds of his own power to be allowed to continue.
- Biting, headbutting and hitting below the belt were declared fouls.

Marquess of Queensberry rules (1867)

In 1867, the Marquess of Queensberry rules were drafted by John Chambers for amateur championships held at Lillie Bridge in London for Lightweights, Middleweights and Heavyweights. The rules were published under the patronage of the Marquess of Queensberry, whose name has always been associated with them.

There were 12 rules in all, and they specified that fights should be "a fair stand-up boxing match" in a 24-foot-square ring. Rounds were three minutes long with one minute rest intervals between rounds. Each fighter was given a ten-second count if he was knocked down and wrestling was banned.

The introduction of gloves of "fair-size" also changed the nature of the bouts. An average pair of boxing gloves resemble a bloated pair of mittens and are laced up around the wrists. Gloves protected the hands of both fighters but their considerable size and weight made knock-out victories more difficult to achieve. Resultantly, bouts became longer and more strategic with greater importance attached to defensive maneuvers such as slipping, bobbing, countering and angling.

The first world heavyweight champion under the Queensberry Rules was "Gentleman Jim" Corbett, who defeated John L. Sullivan in 1892 at the Pelican Athletic Club in New Orleans.

With the gradual acceptance of formalized rules, two distinct branches of boxing emerged; Professional and Amateur. The boxing rules enforced by governing bodies worldwide today at the local, national and international level are all derived in some way from the Marquis of Queensberry Rules.

Amateur boxing

In amateur boxing (the version of the sport found at the Olympic Games and Commonwealth Games) the primary emphasis is on landing scoring punches rather than concern with doing physical damage to one's opponent. Competitors wear protective headgear and box for three to five rounds of two or three minutes each. Gloves in amateur boxing have a white strip across the knuckle. A punch is considered a scoring punch only when the boxers connect with the white portion of the gloves. Each punch that lands on the head or torso is awarded a point. A referee monitors the fight to ensure that competitors use only legal blows (a belt worn over the torso represents the lower limit of punches - any boxer repeatedly landing "low blows" is disqualified). Referees also ensure that the boxers don't use holding tactics to prevent the opponent from swinging (if this occurs, the referee separates the opponents and orders them to continue boxing. Repeated holding can result in a boxer being penalized, or ultimately, disqualified).

Also, in amateur boxing, referees will readily step in and stop the contest even if the competitor is only relatively lightly injured. As a result, the risk of grievous injury is sufficiently reduced in amateur boxing versus professional boxing.

Amateur boxing history

The Queensberry Amateur Championships continued from 1867 to 1885, and so, unlike their professional counterparts, amateur boxers did not deviate from using gloves once the Queensberry Rules had been published. In Britain, the Amateur Boxing Association (ABA) was formed in 1880 when 12 clubs affiliated. It held its first championships the following year. Four weight classes were contested, Featherweight (9 stone), Lightweight (10 stone), Middleweight (11 stone, 4 pounds) and Heavyweight (no limit). (A stone is equal to 14 pounds). By 1902, American boxers were contesting the titles in the ABA Championships, which, therefore, took on an international complexion. By 1924, the ABA had 105 clubs in affiliation.

Boxing first appeared at the Olympic Games in 1904 and, apart from the Games of 1912, has always been part of them. From 1972 through 2004, Cuba and the United States have won the most gold medals, 29 for Cuba and 21 for the States. Internationally, amateur boxing spread steadily throughout the first half of the 20th century, but when the first international body, the Federation Internationale de Boxe Amateur (International Amateur Boxing Federation) was formed in Paris in 1920, there were only five member nations. In 1946, however, when the International Amateur Boxing Association (Aiba) was formed in London, 24 nations from five continents were represented, and the Aiba has continued to be the official world federation of amateur boxing ever since. The first World Amateur Boxing Championships were staged in 1974.

In the late 19th and early 20th century, amateur boxing was encouraged in schools, universities and in the armed forces, but the champions usually came from among the urban poor.

Women's boxing first appeared in the Olympic Games at a demonstration bout in 1904. For most of the 20th century, however, it was banned in most nations. Its revival was pioneered by the Swedish Amateur Boxing Association, which sanctioned events for women in 1988. The British Amateur Boxing Association sanctioned its first boxing competition for women in 1997. The first event was to be between two 13-year-olds, but one of the boxers withdrew because of hostile media attention. Four weeks later, an event was held between two 16-year-olds.

The Aiba accepted new rules for Women's Boxing at the end of the 20th century and approved the first European Cup for Women in 1999 and the first World Championship for women in 2001. Women's boxing will be an exhibition sport at the 2008 Olympics, but it won't become an official Olympic sport at the 2012 Olympics.

Fights at the amateur boxing level were scored by five judges, who gave 20 points to whoever they thought won a round, and 19 or less to the loser. This form of scoring changed after the 1988 Olympic games in Seoul, when Michael Carbajal and Roy Jones Jr lost their gold medal fights to South Korean opponents, with the boxing media generally believing that Carbajal and Jones Jr should have won their bouts. It was later discovered that the judges had been bribed to give South Koreans the gold medals against Carbajal and Jones Jr. Ironically, at the same Games, a South Korean boxer sat in the ring for about 90 minutes after being declared the loser in a fight he thought he should have won.

As a consequence of all the controversies of the 1988 Olympic boxing competition, a new scoring system was invented for amateur boxing: using a computer, judges must press a button every time they think a boxer landed a punch. When three or more of the five judges press the button within a second of each other, the punch counts as a "point" for the fighter that landed it. Punches to the head or face of an opponent usually score the most points for a competitor. At any point of the fight in which a fighter is leading by twenty points (or sometimes more), the referee is indicated and the fight is stopped, the leading fighter winning by "mercy", and credited with a knockout.

Professional boxing

Professional bouts are far longer than amateur bouts (ranging from four to twelve rounds), headgear is not permitted, and boxers are generally allowed to take much more punishment before a fight is halted. At any time, however, the referee may stop the contest if he believes that one participant can not or should not continue to box. In that case, the other participant is awarded a technical knockout win, which appears on the boxer's record as a knockout win (or loss). A technical knockout would also be awarded if a fighter lands a punch that opens a cut on the opponent, and the opponent is later deemed not fit to continue by a doctor because of the cut. If a boxer simply quits fighting, or if his corner stops the fight, then the winning boxer is also awarded a technical knockout victory.

If a knockout or disqualification does not occur, the fight must go to the scorecards. Professional fights have three judges each, and each of the judges must use the 10 point must system: Under this system, each time a boxer wins a round in the judges' eyes, the judge gives that boxer 10 points, and the other 9 or less. If the judge deems the round to be a tie, he or she may score it 10-10. When the fight reaches its scheduled distance, all scores are added, round by round, to determine who won on each judges' cards. When all three judges have the same boxer as the winner, this is an unanimous decision. When two judges have one boxer winning the fight and the other one has it a tie, this is called a majority decision. When two judges have one boxer winning the fight and the other judge has the other boxer winning, this is called a split decision. When one judge gives his or her vote to one boxer, another one gives it to the other boxer, and the third judge calls it a tie, this is a draw. It is also a draw when two judges score the fight a tie, regardless of who the third judge scored the bout for.

In Britain, the bout is only scored by the referee, except when a title is at stake, in which case it is scored by three judges.

If a fight can not go on because of an injury caused to one of the competitors by a headbutt, there are different rules: If the fight has not reached the end of round three, (in some places, round four), the fight is declared a technical draw or a no contest. If it has reached beyond the end of round three (or four), then the scorecards are read and whoever is ahead, wins by a technical decision.

Evolution of professional boxing

In 1891, the National Sporting Club (NSC), a private club in London, began to promote professional glove fights at its own premises, and created 9 of its own rules to augment the Queensberry Rules. These rules specified more accurately the role of the officials, and produced a system of scoring that enabled the referee to decide the result of a fight. The British Boxing Board of Control (BBBC) was first formed in 1919 with close links to the NSC, and was re-formed in 1929 after the NSC closed.

In 1909, the first of 22 belts were presented by the fifth Earl of Lonsdale to the winner of a British title fight held at the NSC. In 1929, the BBBC continued to award Lonsdale Belts to any British boxer who won three title fights in the same weight division. The "title fight" has always been the focal point in professional boxing. In the 19th and early 20th centuries, however, there were title fights at each weight. Promoters who could stage profitable title fights became influential in the sport, as did boxers' managers. The best promoters and managers have been instrumental in bringing boxing to new audiences and provoking media and public interest. The most famous of all three-way partnership (fighter-manager-promoter) was that of Jack Dempsey (Heavyweight Champion, 1919-1926), his manager Jack Kearns, and the promoter Tex Rickard. Together they grossed $8.4 million in only five fights between 1921 and 1927 and ushered in a "golden age" of popularity for professional boxing in the 1920s. They were also responsible for the first live radio broadcast of a title fight (Dempsey v. Georges Carpentier, in 1921). In Britain, Jack Solomons' success as a fight promoter helped reestablish professional boxing after World War II and made Britain a popular place for title fights in the 1950s and 1960s.

In the first part of the 20th century, the United States became the centre for professional boxing. It was generally accepted that the "world champions" were those listed by the Police Gazette. After 1920, the National Boxing Association (NBA) began to sanction "title fights". Also during that time, Ring Magazine was founded and it listed champions and awarded championship belts. The NBA was renamed in 1962 and became the World Boxing Association (WBA). The following year, a rival body, the World Boxing Council (WBC), was formed. In 1983, another world body, the International Boxing Federation (IBF) was formed. By the end of the 20th century, a boxer had to be recognized by the three separate bodies to be the "Undisputed World Champion". Regional sanctioning bodies such as the North American Boxing Federation, the North American Boxing Council and the United States Boxing Association also awarded championships. Ring Magazine also continued listing the World Champion of each weight division, and its rankings continue being of the most appreciated by fans.

Although women fought professionally in many countries, in Britain the BBBC refused to issue licenses to women until 1998. By the end of the century, however, they had issued five such licenses. The first sanctioned bout between women was in November 1998 at Streatham in London, between Jane Couch and Simona Lukic.

Equipment

Boxing techniques utilize very forceful strikes with the hand. There are many bones in the hand, and striking surfaces without proper technique can cause serious hand injuries. Today, most trainers do not allow boxers to train and spar without handwraps and gloves. Handwraps are used to secure the bones in the hand, and the gloves are used to protect the hands from blunt injury, allowing boxers to throw punches with more force than if they did not utilize them.

Headgear, used in amateur boxing, protects against cuts, scrapes, and swelling, but does not protect very well against concussions. Headgear does not sufficiently protect the brain from the jarring that occurs when the head is struck with great force. Also, most boxers aim for the chin on opponents, and the chin is usually not padded. Thus, a powerpunch can do a lot of damage to a boxer, and even a jab that connects to the chin can cause damage, regardless of whether or not headgear is being utilized.

Length of bouts

For decades, from the 1920s to the 1980s, world championship matches in professional boxing were scheduled for 15 rounds, but that changed after a Nov. 13, 1982 WBA Lightweight title bout ended with the death of boxer Duk Koo Kim in a fight against Ray Mancini in the 14th round of a nationally televised championship fight on CBS.

Exactly three months after the fatal fight, the WBC reduced the number of their championship fights to 12 rounds. The WBA even stripped a fighter of his championship in 1983 because the fight had been a 15-round bout, shortly after the rule was changed to 12 rounds. By 1988, to the displeasure of many boxing purists, all fights had been reduced to a maximum of 12 rounds only, partially for safety, and partially for television, as a 12-round bout could take one hour to broadcast, while a 15-round bout could require 90 minutes to broadcast.

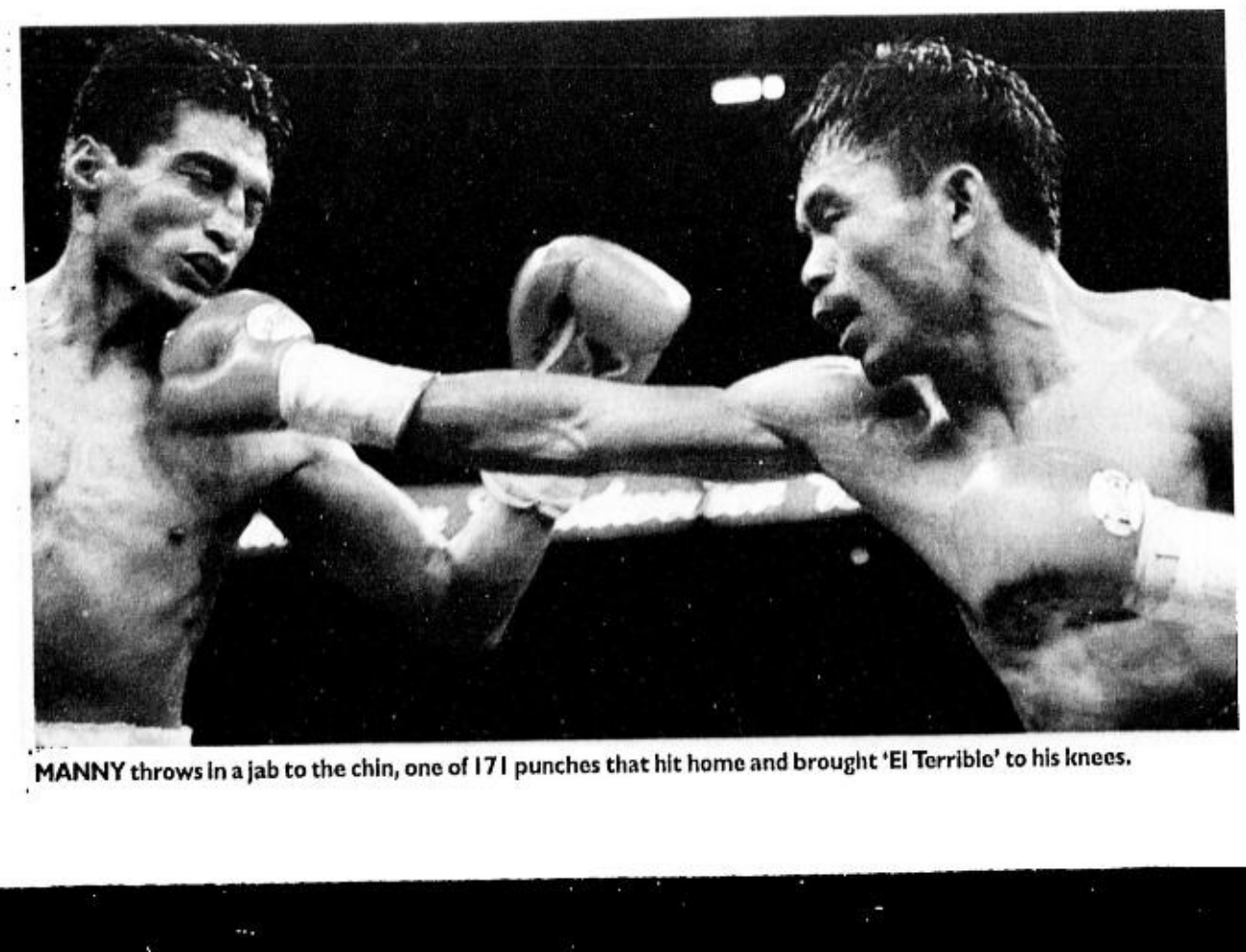
Stance and movement

The modern boxing stance is a reflection of the current system of rules employed by professional boxing. It differs in many ways from the typical boxing stances of the 19th and early 20th centuries. It's been stated that Americans adopted a more upright vertical armed guard (as opposed to more horizontally held, knuckles facing the ground guard as seen when looking at early 20th century boxers such as Jack Johnson) due to the Americans' confrontations with the Filipino natives as a result of the Philippines Spanish-American war. When engaged in hand to hand combat, the Filipinos would slash the wrists of the American soldiers, the Americans adapted by changing the guarded stance and thus just one example of a boxing technicality evolving.

The Boxer's Stance

The following stance applies for a right-handed boxer. The boxer stands with the legs shoulder-width apart with the right foot a half-step behind the left foot. The left (lead) fist is held vertically about six inches in front of the face at eye level. The right (rear) fist is held beside the chin and the elbow tucked against the ribcage to protect the body. The chin is tucked into the chest to avoid punches to the jaw which commonly cause knock-outs. Modern boxers

BOXING/E3



MANNY throws in a jab to the chin, one of 171 punches that hit home and brought 'El Terrible' to his knees.

Boxing techniques utilize very forceful strikes with the hand. There are many bones in the hand, and striking surfaces without proper technique can cause serious hand injuries. Today, most trainers do not allow boxers to train and spar without handwraps and gloves.

Boxing history, as illustrated by Manny and Erik

From page E2

Modern boxers are taught to 'push off' with their feet in order to move effectively. Forward motion involves lifting the lead leg and pushing with the rear leg. Rearward motion involves lifting the rear leg and pushing with the lead leg

can sometimes be seen "tapping" their cheeks or foreheads with their fists in order to remind themselves to keep their hands up (which becomes difficult during long bouts).

Movement

Modern boxers are taught to "push off" with their feet in order to move effectively. Forward motion involves lifting the lead leg and pushing with the rear leg. Rearward motion involves lifting the rear leg and pushing with the lead leg. During lateral motion the leg in the direction of the movement moves first while the opposite leg provides the force needed to move the body.

Punches

There are four basic punches in boxing: the Jab, Cross, Hook and Uppercut. If a boxer is right-handed, his left hand is the lead hand, his right hand is the rear hand and vice versa. The following techniques apply to a right-handed boxer. A right-handed boxer's handedness is commonly described as orthodox. A left-handed boxer is called an unorthodox boxer or a Southpaw.

Jab - A quick, straight punch thrown with the lead hand from the guard position. The jab is accompanied by a small, clockwise rotation of the torso and hips, while the fist rotates 180 degrees, becoming horizontal upon impact. As the punch reaches full extension, the lead shoulder is brought up to guard the chin. The rear hand remains next to the face to guard the jaw. After making contact with the target, the lead hand is retracted quickly to resume a guard position in front of the face. The jab is the most important punch in a boxer's arsenal because it provides a fair amount of its own cover and it leaves the least amount of space for a counterpunch from the opponent. It has the longest reach of any punch and does not require commitment or large weight transfers. Due to its relatively weak power, the jab is often used as a tool to gauge distances, probe an opponent's defenses, and set up heavier, more powerful punches. A half-step may be added, moving the entire body into the punch, for additional power.

Cross - A powerful straight punch thrown with the rear hand. From the guard position, the rear hand is thrown from the chin, crossing the body and traveling towards the target in a straight line. The rear shoulder is thrust forward and finishes just touching the outside of the chin. At the same time, the lead hand is retracted and tucked against the face to protect the inside of the chin. For additional power, the torso and hips are rotated anti-clockwise as the cross is thrown. Weight is also transferred from the rear foot to the lead foot, resulting in the rear heel turning outwards as it acts as a fulcrum for the transfer of weight. Body rotation and the sudden weight transfer is what gives the cross its power. Like the jab, a half-step forward may be added. After the cross is thrown, the hand is retracted quickly and the guard position resumed. It can be used to counterpunch a jab, aiming for the opponent's head (or a counter to a cross aimed at the body) or to set up a hook. The cross can also follow a jab, creating the classic "one-two combo." The cross is also called a "straight" or "right."

Hook - A semi-circular punch thrown with the lead hand to the side of the opponent's head. From the guard position, the elbow is drawn back with a horizontal fist (knuckles pointing forward) and the elbow bent. The rear hand is tucked firmly against the jaw to protect the chin. The torso and hips are rotated clockwise, propelling the fist through a tight, clockwise arc across the front of the body and connecting with the target. At the same time, the lead foot pivots clockwise, turning the left heel outwards. Upon contact, the hook's circular path ends abruptly and the lead hand is pulled quickly back into the guard position. A hook may also target the lower body (the classic Mexican hook to the liver) and this technique is sometimes called the "rip" to distinguish it from the conventional hook to the head. The hook may also be thrown with the rear hand

Uppercut - A vertical, rising punch thrown with the rear hand. From the guard position, the torso shifts slightly to the right, the rear hand drops below the level of the opponent's chest and the knees are bent slightly. From this position, the rear hand is thrust upwards in a rising arc towards the opponent's chin or torso. At the same time, the knees push upwards quickly and the torso and hips rotate anti-clockwise and the rear heel turns outward, mimicking the body movement of the cross. The strategic utility of the uppercut depends on its ability to "lift" the opponent's body, setting it off-balance for successive attacks. The right uppercut followed by a left hook is a deadly combination.

Defense

Slip - Slipping rotates the body slightly so that an incoming punch passes harmlessly next to the head. As the opponent's punch arrives, the boxer sharply rotates the hips and shoulders. This turns the chin sideways and allows the punch to "slip" past.

Bob and Weave - Bobbing moves the head laterally and beneath an incoming punch. As the opponent's punch arrives, the boxer bends the legs quickly and simultaneously shifts the body either slightly right or left. Once the punch has been evaded, the boxer "weaves" back to an upright position, emerging on either the outside or inside of the opponent's still-extended arm. To move outside the opponent's extended arm is called "bobbing to the outside". To move inside the opponent's extended arm is called "bobbing to the inside".

Parry - Parrying uses the boxer's hands as defensive tools to deflect incoming attacks. As the opponent's punch arrives, the boxer delivers a sharp, lateral, open-handed blow to the opponent's wrist or forearm, redirecting the punch.

The Cover-Up - Covering up is the last line of defense against an incoming strike to an unprotected face or body. Generally speaking, the hands are held high to protect the head and chin and the forearms are tucked against the torso to impede body shots. When protecting the body, the boxer rotates the hips and lets incoming punches "roll" off the guard. When protecting the head, the boxer presses both fists against the front of the face with the forearms parallel and facing outwards.

The Clinch - Clinching is a rough form of grappling and occurs when the distance between both fighters has closed and straight punches cannot be employed. In this situation, the boxer attempts to hold or "tie up" the opponent's hands so he is unable to throw roundhouse punches or uppercuts. To perform a clinch, the boxer loops both hands around the outside of the opponent's shoulders, scooping back under the forearms to grasp the opponent's arms tightly against his own body. In this position, the opponent's arms are pinned and cannot be used to attack. Clinching is a temporary match state and is quickly dissipated by the referee.

MEDICAL concerns about boxing, particularly about the sport's damaging effects on the fighters' brains, are prompting professional fighters like Manny to leave their fate to God's hands.

Medical concerns

In 1983, The Journal of the American Medical Association called for a ban on boxing. The editor, Dr. George Lundberg, called boxing an "obscenity" that "should not be sanctioned by any civilized society." Since the AMA called for abolition of boxing, the British, Canadian, Australian and World Medical Association have also called for the sport's abolition, as have the American Neurological Association and the American Academy of Neurology.

Many who disagree with the AMA point out that boxing is far from being the most dangerous of sports. To put the risks in perspective, here are some US figures on sports fatalities:

Fatality rates per 100,000 participants

Horse racing: 128
Sky diving: 123
Hang gliding: 56
Mountaineering: 51
Scuba diving: 11
Motorcycle racing: 7
College football: 3
Boxing: 1.3

(This table was compiled by R.J. McCunney and PK Russo, authors of an article entitled "Brain Injuries in Boxing", which was published in 1984.)

In response to such statistics, Lundberg has said, "It's not the deaths but the chronic brain damage that is so frequent." the AMA says about three out of four boxers who have 20 or more professional fights show some brain deterioration.

Many who support the ban proposal consider its main reason is not the fact that boxing is a dangerous sport, but the fact that the goal of the sport is to cause injury to the opponent.

Tanduay hails Pacquiao as No. 1 Pinoy Boxing Hero

THE ASTOUNDING VICTORY OF Manny Pacquiao over Eric Morales during their spectacular super featherweight rematch last Jan. 22 at The Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada is being landed by Tanduay as a shining example of "A Pilipino's triumph over seemingly insurmountable adversity."

Tanduay, makers of "The No. 1 Rhum", considers Pacquiao as the Philippine "No. 1 Pinoy Boxing hero" for having risen from being a lowly dockworker in the ports of General Santos before to becoming a world boxing champion today.

It will be recalled that Pacquiao lost to Morales during their match in March last year and vowed to redeem himself and restore the self-respect for his countrymen. To prepare for this grudge fight, Pacquiao went through rigorous training for 9 months, forsaking Christmas with his family and going through a Spartan regimen, with dedication, intense focus and discipline.

It was payback time when he crushed the once-indestructible Erik Morales in the 10th round of the fight. Tanduay applauded Pacquiao's victory, not only as the triumph of one man but as the triumph of the Filipino people who has been looking for a "hero" to serve as an inspiration and a model in overcoming the present problems of the nation.

Tanduay was a major sponsor of the live TV telecast which was widely watched by millions and millions of Filipinos who rose in jubilation when Pacquiao won. In sponsoring the event, Tanduay management reiterated their unwavering commitment to promote boxing as a strong sports arena where ordinary Filipinos can excel and attain world championship.

Just like Pacquiao who has attained his No. 1 status through long years of training and struggle, Tanduay likewise achieved the No. 1 Rhum stature through more than 150 years of manufacturing experience in satisfying the needs of Filipino consumers for affordable quality liquor products.

Tanduay congratulates the men and women behind Pacquiao's victory and salutes the Filipino people for their patronage.

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■ SPORTS / A19

Pacquiao stands to earn P318M from pay-per-view share in US

Do you have a story to tell about Edsa I? The INQUIRER is looking for those untold stories (photos, too) that contributed, no matter how small, to the first People Power in 1986 that so stunned the world and inspired and emboldened people in chains everywhere to break free. The contributions that will be selected by the editors will be used for the INQUIRER's special celebration of the 20th anniversary next month of the one and only Edsa I.
Send contributions to fdelmundo@inquirer.com.ph

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, [illegible]

Sunday [illegible] / Sections / Vol. 21 / No. 52 [illegible] www.inq7.net

Year of the Dog: Idealism takes over from cynicism

By George Sison
Contributor

THE YEAR OF THE FIRE DOG USHERS IN A PEriod of spirited optimism, industry, growth, expansion and regeneration.

Expect idealism to take over from cynicism, fidelity to succeed deceit, and true leadership to triumph over cockiness.

There will be peace and harmony in the

YEAR/ A6

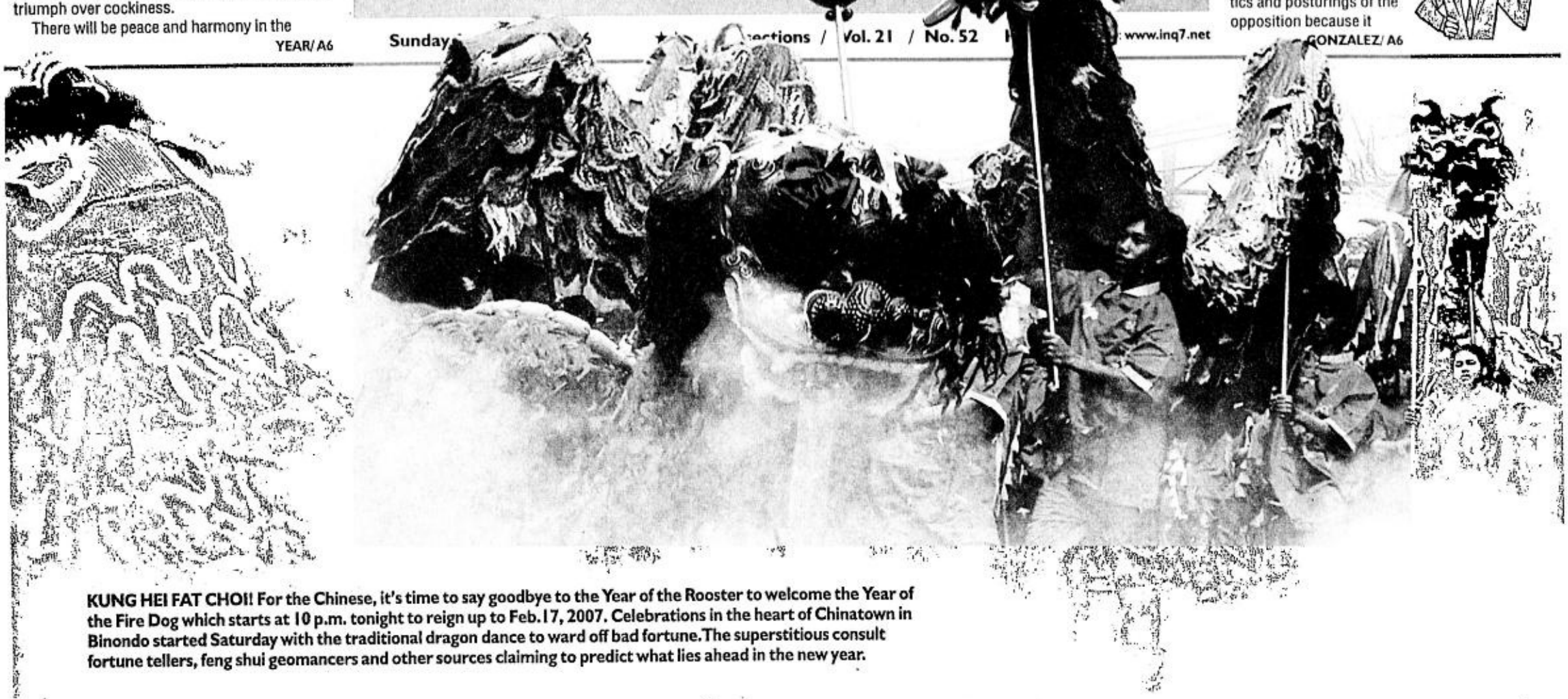
Gonzalez warns media: Don't play up opposition antics

By Armand N. Nocum

THE MEDIA AS DESTABIlizer?

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday warned local media against playing up the antics and posturings of the opposition because it

GONZALEZ/ A6



KUNG HEI FAT CHOI! For the Chinese, it's time to say goodbye to the Year of the Rooster to welcome the Year of the Fire Dog which starts at 10 p.m. tonight to reign up to Feb. 17, 2007. Celebrations in the heart of Chinatown in Binondo started Saturday with the traditional dragon dance to ward off bad fortune. The superstitious consult fortune tellers, feng shui geomancers and other sources claiming to predict what lies ahead in the new year.

Lover's trail led to arrest

Woman AFP lawyer surveilled after mutineer Faeldon escaped

EDWIN BACASMAS

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Nancy C. Carvajal

THE CAPTURE OF MARINE Capt. Nicanor Faeldon played out like a scene from a classic spy novel.

Agents of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces caught up with Faeldon, one of the leaders of the July 2003 Oakwood mutiny, Friday night in Malabon City. He did not resist arrest.

The fugitive officer was with his girlfriend, Capt. Candelaria Rivas, who is part of the Judge Advocate General's Office team prosecuting the court-martial of the "Magdalo" mutineers.

Hours after the arrest of the couple, military agents raided Rivas' rented studio apartment in Malabon, which authorities believed to be Faeldon's hideout.

The AFP downplayed Rivas' role in the capture of Faeldon, who escaped from military custody on Dec. 14, 2005 and who eluded a nationwide search for 44 days, even managing to sneak in and out of military and police camps.

The AFP merely announced in a statement that "Captain Faeldon was arrested with Captain Rivas," and that the arrest was "the result of information provided by military personnel and civilians."

But according to military sources in the know, Rivas unknowingly led Isafp operatives to Faeldon when the couple met up on Friday night.

The same sources said Rivas was placed under surveillance after Faeldon's escape because Isafp had viewed their relationship with suspicion.

Faeldon, however, last night denied through his lawyer any romantic relationship with Rivas.

His escape, along with that of four oth-

LOVER'S/ A4

TV GRAB/AFP

PDI PHOTO

"CONDUCT UNBECOMING:" Charges may be filed against Capt. Candy Rivas (right), who was with Faeldon (right in left photo) when he was captured Friday night in Malabon. Rivas, a military lawyer, serves as spokesperson in the court-martial of the Oakwood mutineers. She may be charged as an alleged accessory to coup d' etat and, uh, for "coddling the enemy".

'They only had eyes for each other'

By Fe Zamora and Dona Z. Pazzibugan

WHEN CAPT. NICANOR FAELDON EScaped on Dec. 14, 2005, one of the first persons contacted by the military was his girlfriend, herself a military lawyer.

"They called me: *O saan mo itinago? Ilabas mo na* (Where did you hide him? Produce him)," Capt. Candelaria "Candy" Rivas said when the INQUIRER visited her at her office early this month.

Rivas said she was at a court hearing outside Camp Aguinaldo at the time. "I didn't know he had escaped. I didn't know what was going on," she said.

Rivas said she hurriedly returned to Camp Aguinaldo and proceeded to the headquarters of the Intelligence Service of the Armed Forces, where she faced more questions.

A source said Faeldon and Rivas apparently caught each other's eye during the court hearings for the officers who had mounted the failed Oakwood mutiny on July 28, 2003.

Faeldon was one of the accused, and Rivas was a member of the prosecuting panel.

She is in her mid-30s and single. He is 38 and had his 10-year marriage annulled last year.

Despite their opposing positions in a court of law, Faeldon and Rivas found common passion in sport, according to the source, who often saw the couple playing badminton at the Isafp gym.

"She'd bring food, and they would have a picnic. They were oblivious to the people around," the source said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"*Malagkit ang tinginan* (They only had eyes for each other)," said another source, who suspected a budding romance when he saw the couple at the Isafp gym.

Faeldon was detained at the Isafp

'THEY ONLY'/ A4

5-5-5-5-5 PLAN

Taipans put in ₱5B to get 5M tourists in 5 years

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE COUNTRY'S TAIPANS ARE AT THE forefront of a business offensive aimed at hitting the private sector's *singko-singko* goal and propelling Philippine tourism to its golden age.

Their "5-5-5-5-5" target simply means: To invest $5 billion to bring in 5 million tourists that would generate $5 billion in revenues and 5 million jobs in 5 years.

Marketing whiz Samie Lim said the country's billionaires were buying new planes and ships, erecting new malls and hotels, and building word-class resorts and casinos, confident that tourism would be the next big thing in the Philippine economy.

"We're happy that the taipans have bought into our 5-A strategy—arrival, access, accommodations, attractions and activities—by spending money in these specific areas needed to bring in the tourists," said Lim, the vice president of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Industry (PCCI).

Taipan Lucio Tan is leading the pack with the $814 million refleeting program of Philippine Airlines and is spending a few billion pesos more to mark his entry into the shopping mall business (his Allied Bank has foreclosed on the Ever Gotesco properties).

Retail king Henry Sy's gigantic P7 billion Mall of Asia off Manila Bay is being positioned as a major tourist destination not only for its world-class shopping facilities but also for its terminal that will have ferries carrying tourists to sites along the coast line.

"Next to our beaches, tourists come to the Philippines for shopping," said Lim, explaining the importance of shopping malls in their strategy.

Flush with cash from a stock offering last year, Sy is also building Hamilo Cove, a 5,200-hectare seaside property in Nasugbu, Batangas, as his flagship

TAIPANS/ A6

Small acts of heroism bring dignity back to Filipino

By Christian V. Esguerra

YOU DON'T HAVE TO BE A MANNY PACquiao to raise the sagging Filipino spirit.

All you need to do is be a member of a foundation formed five years ago in time for the Catholic Church's Jubilee Year.

One member simply pays the right taxes on time and monitors how they're spent in her community.

A second one patrols the streets of Obando as a volunteer village watcher.

A third, a firefighter, did his share in a more dramatic fashion. He helped save children trapped in a burning Quezon City building and lost his life in the process.

These acts of heroism, big and small, were their ways of returning the favor for the benefits they reaped from Sagip Ka 2000 Foundation.

With a token contribution of at least P200 yearly, members get substantial hospital and burial benefits.

It's one concrete way of uplifting the Filipino spirit, especially that of the poor, says Bro. Manuel de Leon, head of the Marist Brothers of the Philippines and the group's founding president.

"It means a lot when people don't have to worry so much about money when they get sick or when a relative dies," Bro. Manny told the INQUIRER. "It brings back their dignity."

The foundation has some 17,000 members scattered around the country, mostly vendors, tricycle drivers, farmers, tribesmen and fisher folk. There are also soldiers, policemen, students, small businessmen and priests.

The requirement is not at all Herculean, according to Bro. Manny.

One simply has to live by the group's core principles centered on bringing back dignity to Filipinos.

They're spelled out in a 15-point advice encouraging members to go back to basic principles, such as honest labor, respect for the human person, orderliness, beauty, truth and fairness.

In more concrete terms, Bro. Manny says they're urged to assist a neighbor in need, clean their backyards, vote for deserving politicians, reject any form of violence, and develop a personal relationship with God.

In essence, Sagip Ka promotes values expected of any well-meaning individual, he explains.

Bro. Manny got the idea during a renewal trip to the Vatican in 1999.

Walking down a street leading to St. Peter's Square, he chanced upon a nice

SMALL/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2006

E-mail: pr_news@inquirer.com.ph

Second FRONTPAGE

Text us your feedback: Inquirer news name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern and Eastern Luzon will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers while Visayas and Mindanao will have mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. Rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

COMPILED BY JAMIE ALARCON, PDI RESEARCH/01/29/06 SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Cloudy with Rains

Bolante sends 'surrender' feelers

By Philip C. Tubeza

AFTER REPEATEDLY SNUBBING PREVIOUS Senate hearings, former Agriculture Undersecretary Jocelyn "Joc-Joc" Bolante has sent feelers he would attend the Senate investigation into the Department of Agriculture's controversial P2.806 billion "fertilizer fund" on one condition.

Sen. Ramon Magsaysay Jr. said yesterday Bolante wanted the Senate to first lift its arrest warrant issued against him after he failed to attend five earlier hearings.

Magsaysay, chair of the agriculture and food committee, said Bolante's fellow members in the Rotary Club informed him that the former DA official was now willing to attend the hearings.

"There are feelers through some Rotarians that he might attend the hearings if we lift the warrant," Magsaysay said.

But Magsaysay, whose committee is investigating the fertilizer fund, said he was against lifting the warrant since it would make the Senate look foolish after Bolante repeatedly rebuffed its summons.

The Senate is set to resume its hearings on Thursday.

Magsaysay said Bolante, who is reportedly in the United States, should attend the hearings to clear up allegations he was the mastermind of the release of the fund, which the opposition claimed was used to ensure President Macapagal-Arroyo's victory in the May 2004 election.

"Our objective here is not to harass anybody but to give those responsible the opportunity to explain their side," he said.

The Senate resumed its investigation after DA documents showed that P544 million in confiscated Marcos Swiss bank deposits were also used for the DA Ginintuang Masaganang Ani (GMA) hybrid rice program.

Of the P544 million, around P100 million went to "farm inputs and implements" that farmers allegedly did not receive, P50 million for "roads" and the rest went to the International Rice Research Institute.

This was on top of the P728 million "fertilizer fund" which allegedly went to politicians allied with the President; P1.102 billion for "rice, corn and livestock," and P432 million for the GMA rice program–fertilizer procurement and distribution component which the DA released to the National Food Authority.

Bolante, a close friend of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, had snubbed the five previous Senate hearings on the issue and questioned the legality of the Senate arrest warrant before the Supreme Court.

Magsaysay said Bolante's testimony was crucial since he was the alleged architect of the fertilizer fund program.

Despite assurances from Malacañang that the DA would be able to fully explain the controversy, Magsaysay said the department was apparently stonewalling by not providing the Senate with vital documents about the fertilizer program.

"It is unfortunate that the executive, the Department of Agriculture in particular, has remained silent on the allegations of mismanagement of the fertilizer fund, hampered by Executive Order 464," said a preliminary report of Magsaysay's committee that was released last month.

The report said the Senate received from Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban on Nov. 16, 2005, copies of pertinent dossiers but "with a categorical explanation" that the liquidation of the fertilizer fund "is a duty reposed" in the DA's Regional Field Units (RFUs).

A DA status of disbursement report showed that P98.8 million from the Marcos funds had been released to 13 RFUs for farm inputs as of Nov. 30, 2005.

Magsaysay also noted that Panganiban had admitted to the committee that the basis for the distribution of the fertilizer fund – the Farm Inputs and Implement Program – was "inexistent."

GMA: VAT to be raised if conditions met

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
PDI Visayas Bureau

CONCEPCION, ILOILO—PRESIdent Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday said she would use her standby power to increase the value-added tax (VAT) rate from 10 to 12 percent on Feb. 1, but only if the conditions set by law were met.

"The law does not give me any leeway. If the three conditions are complied with, then it's automatic," the President, who was here on an overnight visit, told reporters.

The expanded VAT law, or RA 9337, which took effect on Nov. 1, 2005, allows the President to raise the VAT rate to 12 percent on the recommendation of the finance secretary, who would determine if the conditions had been met. It also increases the corporate tax rate from 32 percent to 35 percent until 2009.

The President is authorized to raise the rate if VAT collections as a percentage of gross domestic product exceeded 2.8 percent the previous year, or if the deficit of the previous year exceeded 1.5 percent of GDP.

While the government expects to earn an additional P78 billion in revenues from VAT collections this year, the increased rate is expected to further raise the prices of petroleum products, electricity, and other goods and services.

The President defended the unpopular law, part of a tax reform package to head off a fiscal crisis, saying the revenues from the increased VAT rate would be used to fund farm-to-market roads, irrigation and railroad systems, and other infrastructure projects.

She said the peso had become stronger as a result of the fiscal reforms that the administration has been implementing. The strengthening peso has in turn offset the impact of the VAT measure, she said.

"We were able to keep the inflation rate much lower than what doomsayers were predicting," Ms Arroyo said.

She said the stock market also improved, gaining around P55 billion in capital investments from initial public offerings (IPOs) of companies.

"People will not invest in the stock market if they do not see our political will [to carry out fiscal reforms]," she said.

With the revenues from the tax measures, the President expects a balanced budget by 2010.

The revenues will also be used to bring down the foreign debt.

The President inaugurated a P10-million road project connecting Concepcion and Ajuy towns. She also presided over groundbreaking ceremonies for several farm-to-market roads and turned over houses built by the Gawad Kalinga humanitarian group to residents of far-flung barangays.

From Concepcion, the President proceeded to Guimbal to inaugurate the town's new police station and tourist center.

The President was the keynote speaker at the centennial celebration of Central Philippine University in Iloilo City and stayed overnight after meeting with local officials and allies.

She will lead the opening ceremonies of the Dinagyang Ati-Atihan contest today before returning to Manila.

The President ordered the release of P1.5 billion in funds for irrigation and education projects.

She said the P500-million irrigation program would help rice-producing provinces like Iloilo and Nueva Ecija.

'Should Gloria have cheered for Morales?'

ALWAYS QUICK ON THE draw to defend President Macapagal-Arroyo, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez yesterday lashed out at those who criticized the President and her husband for allegedly using the victory of boxer Manny Pacquiao to prop up her sagging popularity.

"What do they want the President to do, cheer Manny Pacquiao's Mexican rival Erik Morales?" Gonzalez said in a phone interview.

"It is very pathetic to inject politics every time things like this happen when everybody should be rejoicing because a Filipino has achieved something very spectacular, which should make everyone of us proud," he said.

Gonzalez, an avid Pacquiao fan, admitted dropping a speaking engagement in Cotabato City in order to watch the fight in Manila.

He railed at those who criticized the President for welcoming Pacquiao to Malacañang and joining him in the victory celebration later that evening.

"What is wrong with that, is she not human?" he said.

Pacquiao himself yesterday dismissed suggestions that he was being used, maintaining that he would never allow anyone to use him for political ends or to fan controversy.

"No politician has ever used me. Nobody coached me into saying what I said," he said in an interview on Vice President Noli de Castro's radio program. *Armand N. Nocum and Cynthia D. Balana*

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RP to raise 'blood money' offer to P18M

AT LEAST 100,000 KUWAITI DINARS ($340,000 or about P18 million) will be offered as "blood money" in exchange for the life of a Filipino maid who was sentenced to death by a Kuwait court last year for killing her employer.

Philippine Ambassador to Kuwait Ricardo Endaya told Vice President Noli de Castro on the latter's radio program yesterday that the amount was 10 times the blood money offered last year to the victim's family, which rejected it.

"We are getting one more lawyer to pursue the appeal. We will vigorously pursue the blood money if that is acceptable to the victim's family," Endaya told De Castro.

Endaya did not answer when De Castro asked where the money would come from. But the diplomat said it was in line with President Macapagal-Arroyo's directive to the embassy to exhaust all means to save Ranario.

He described the Kuwaiti victim as a rich man who was engaged in real estate and who had relatives in the emir's palace.

Ranario, 33, of Surigao del Sur, was sentenced to death by hanging by a Kuwaiti court in September 2005 for stabbing her employer to death in January 2005.

The DFA did not provide details of the incident, but reports said Ranario killed her employer over "insults" heaped on "her people."

Ranario's predicament was made public only after her father, Rosario, complained to the media that Filipino diplomats had failed to help his daughter.

A separate appeal before the court is being pursued by Ranario's two Kuwaiti defense lawyers hired by the embassy.

Endaya said Ranario, who is being held incommunicado, admitted the crime on the witness stand during her trial.

He said he last saw Ranario on Jan. 11 during oral arguments in the Kuwaiti Court of Appeals where her lawyers asked for a postponement of the proceedings to prepare its defense. The next hearing is on Feb. 11

Endaya said the appeal lawyers would question the lack of a qualified Tagalog-speaking Arabic interpreter during the trial and raise the defense that she was not in good mental health when she admitted the crime.

The lawyers will also challenge the mental assessment done on Ranario by a medical team led by the head of the University of Kuwait psychiatry department.

According to Endaya, the Kuwaiti team did not wait for Ranario's medical records from the Philippines before rendering its opinion on her mental fitness.

De Castro said arrangements were being made for him to go to Kuwait to see Ranario.

Cynthia D. Balana

New EU members no threat to OFWs, says Sto. Tomas

LABOR SECRETARY PATRICIA STO. TOMAS yesterday allayed fears that the European Union's taking on more member countries would threaten the Philippine market for overseas workers in Europe.

Sto. Tomas said the European migrant workers market is skills-driven so there was no danger of unemployed citizens of Bulgaria, Romania, Croatia, Macedonia or Turkey flooding the 25 other EU countries and taking up all the jobs there.

She said that despite the EU's latest and largest expansion in May 2004, the labor department's overseas employment figures showed that the deployment of skilled, documented land-based overseas Filipino workers in Europe rose to 55,116 in 2004, from only 3,683 in 1984.

A preliminary report of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration also showed that another 39,191 OFWs were deployed on the European continent in the first eight months of 2005.

The European Union is composed of 25 countries that collectively form one of the world's most dynamic economies. Romania and Bulgaria are set to join the grouping in 2007, while Croatia, Macedonia and Turkey have been approved as candidate states.

Danilo Cruz, the labor undersecretary for employment promotion and manpower development, said the historical trend showed long-term growth in OFW deployments to Europe.

Cruz recalled that in 1984, no European country was in the top 10 global destinations of OFWs. Today, two of the top 10 are European countries—Britain and Italy.

Ireland also figures in the top 20 while Spain's and Cyprus's intake of OFWs is increasing. Other EU countries have also opened their doors to Filipino workers.

Jerome Aning

R. A. Lacuna; 82

RETIRED BUSINESSMAN ROMEO AVES LACUNA of Peñaranda, Nueva Ecija, passed away yesterday at the Makati Medical Center after suffering a heart attack. He was 82.

He is survived by his wife, Isabelita, and children, children-in-law and grandchildren Dody, Deanne and Miggy; Myra and Benny; Luz and Ed; Eleanor, Leland, JB, Raffy and Pia; Cocoy, Grace, Sean and Simon and Ely.

His remains are at the Loyola Memorial Chapels in Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment will be on Feb. 1 at 10 a.m. at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

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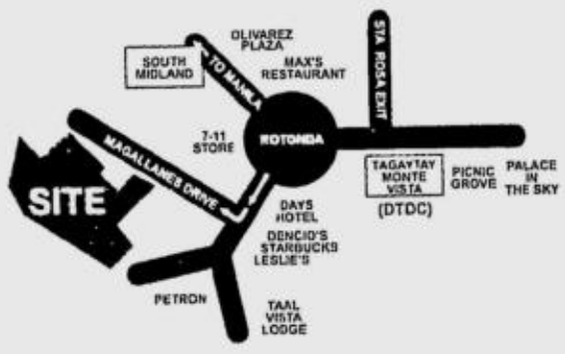

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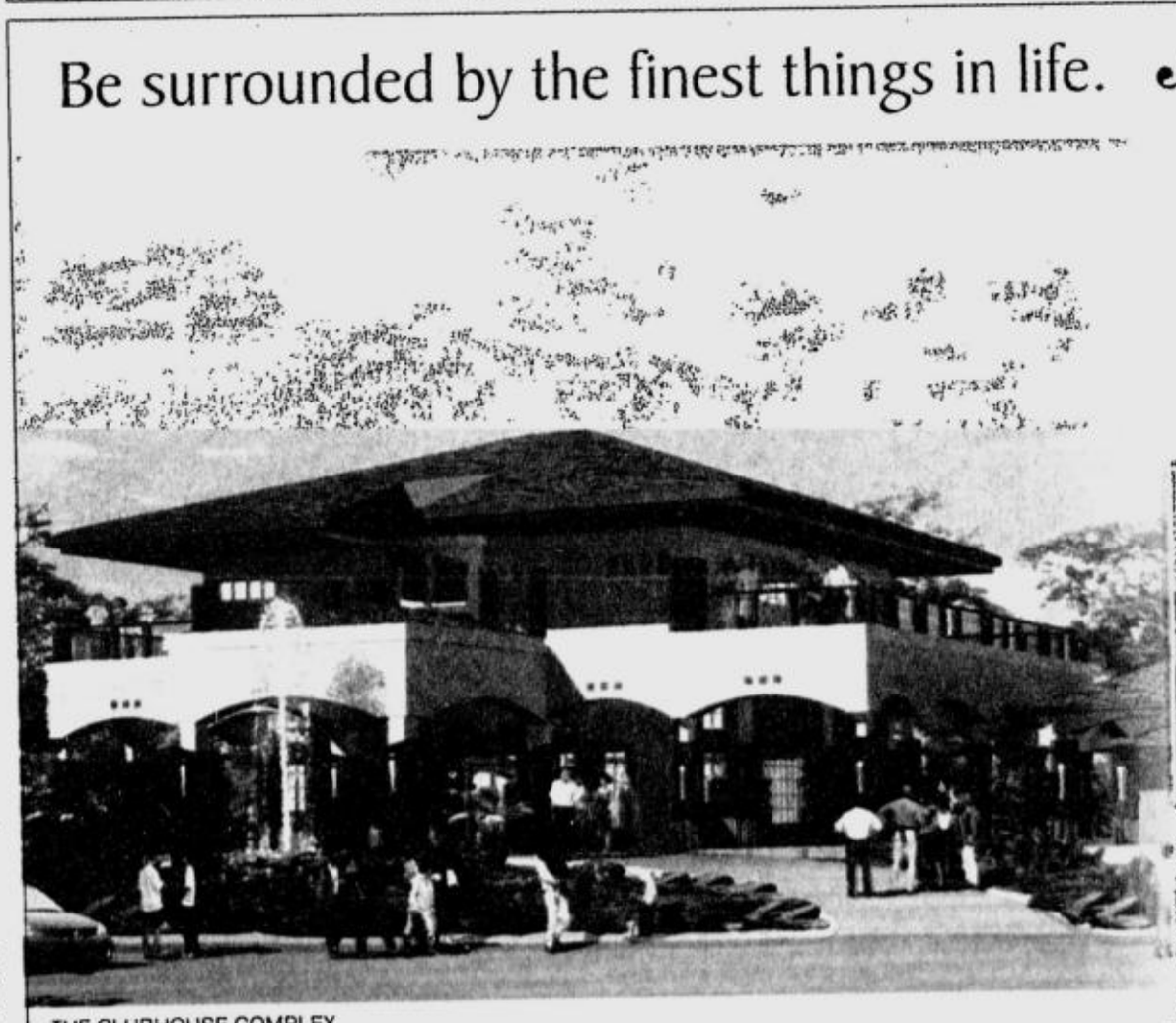

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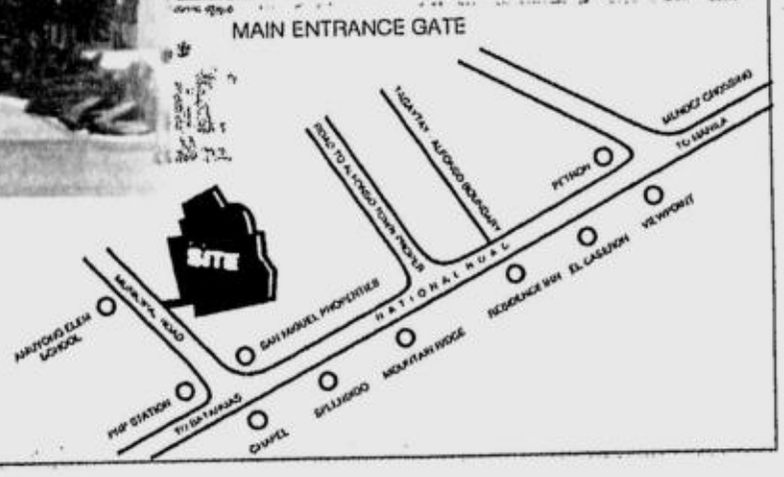

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'They only had eyes for each other'

From page A1

compound along with the other mutiny leaders—Navy Lieutenants Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug, Army Captains Miles Maestrecampo and Gerry Gambala, and Marine Capt. Gary Alejano.

After his escape in December, Faeldon launched a civil disobedience campaign on the Internet in an attempt to bring down the Arroyo administration.

Describing himself on his website, Faeldon said he got married in 1995 but the marriage was annulled in 2005. He said he had a son.

But Rivas told the INQUIRER that she was not familiar with Faeldon's website and had to ask her nephews and niece for help in surfing the Internet.

Court-martial spokesperson

Rivas is no stranger to media attention, but perhaps not the kind she is getting now.

Despite being a neophyte military prosecutor, Rivas was designated spokesperson for the general court-martial of the Oakwood mutineers.

As spokesperson for the trial proceedings, Rivas is known to be accommodating to reporters, taking time to explain military justice procedures and case details.

Most of the reporters covering the trial soon came to call her by her nickname.

The information available on Rivas is scant. She passed the bar in 1998; being a lawyer, she was directly commissioned into the military service as an Army captain on July 10, 2003.

She reported for duty on Aug. 1, 2003, as a legal officer at the Judge Advocate General's Office, in its prosecution and legal service division.

Shortly afterward, she was assigned to the Jago prosecution team in the Magdalo general court-martial.

This was where her path crossed with that of Faeldon, one of the 97 junior officers being tried for mutiny.

Multi-awarded officer

Faeldon himself began his military career in June 1989, shortly after graduating from college, enlisting as a third-class trainee in the Naval Construction Brigade.

A year later, he was admitted to the Naval Officers School and was commissioned in January 1992.

He volunteered to serve in the Philippine Marines, where in the last 13 years he had earned numerous medals and military decorations, including a Gold Cross.

Faeldon worked his way through college at National University but he still managed to be active in extracurricular affairs, serving as student council president in 1985-87.

He graduated in 1989 with a degree in political science.

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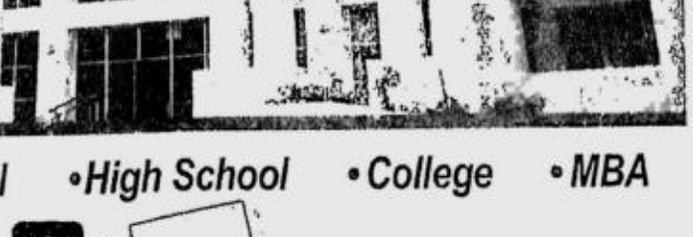

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Lover's trail led to arrest

From page A1

er Magdalo officers from an Army detention facility in Fort Bonifacio on Jan. 17, triggered speculations of a new coup attempt against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Rivas to be charged

AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison announced yesterday at a news conference in Camp Aguinaldo that Rivas would be charged before military and civilian courts for keeping Faeldon's whereabouts from her superiors.

Kison said military lawyers were preparing charges of violation of Article of War 96 (conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman) and Article of War 97 (conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline), as well as violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and the Code of Ethics for the Legal Profession.

"Under the Revised Penal Code, she could also be charged as an accessory to the crime of coup d' etat, but our lawyers are looking into this. They are now preparing the appropriate charges," Kison said.

At the mall

Per the AFP's official version, Faeldon was arrested while traveling in a red Toyota Corolla sedan (with plate number PPT 346) along General Pascual Street near the MacArthur Highway in Tugatog, Malabon, at around 8:30 p.m. on Friday.

"From the initial investigation, Captain Faeldon picked up Captain Rivas in a grocery [store] in Quezon City," said Kison, denying speculation that Faeldon had met with Rivas in Camp Aguinaldo, where the Jago is based.

But according to military insiders, Faeldon met Rivas at the fourth-floor parking lot of the SM North Edsa mall, after which they proceeded to Malabon in Faeldon's car.

They were reportedly intercepted by members of Military Intelligence Group 24 along General Pascual Street at 8:10 p.m.

Kison said a number of fake driver's licenses and fake ID cards for Faeldon were found in the car.

Capt. Val Asadon, a Jago officer assigned to Isafp, told reporters that no firearm was found on Faeldon.

Kison also said that based on documents found with him, Faeldon had tried to "visit" the AFP Central Command headquarters in Cebu City but only got as far as the Marriott Hotel near Camp Lapu-Lapu.

Not an 'asset'

Kison carefully worded his reply to questions on Faeldon and Rivas' relationship: "I cannot speculate, but I will just give you the facts—that when Captain Faeldon was arrested, Captain Rivas was with him.

"What I heard is that they came to know each other only after the Oakwood mutiny."

Kison said that Isafp did not use Rivas as an "asset" to track down Faeldon, and that the latter would still have been arrested even if he had not met with Rivas on Friday.

"We have other sources," Kison insisted.

Earlier, AFP officials said they had been having difficulty finding the fugitive officer.

"We haven't gotten any leads even in signal intelligence, even in human intelligence," Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, a former AFP deputy chief of staff, said on Dec. 28.

Asked if Rivas helped Faeldon escape last December, Kison said: "Our teams are investigating this. They are looking at all these possibilities. That is a possibility."

Raid on studio

Supt. Reynaldo Lozada, Malabon deputy chief of police, said Rivas' one-bedroom studio, Faeldon's suspected hideout, was raided by Isafp agents several hours after the fugitive's arrest.

"Our assistance was asked by Isafp for an operation on a house which is believed to be the safe house of Captain Faeldon," Lozada said in a report filed at the Northern Police District.

Rivas' studio is on the second floor of a two-story house on Prosperidad Street corner Praleya in Tugatog, the report said.

The house is located in a quiet neighborhood that may be reached through three streets leading to the main roads, it said.

Rivas' maid, Melinda Valderama, said the raiders took a computer, diskettes and papers.

Lozada's report said it was Valderama who allowed the Isafp agents, uniformed police and barangay officials to enter the house.

This was Valderama's account to the INQUIRER:

The agents were not carrying a search warrant but they took video footage of the studio and waited for Rivas to arrive.

The maid was questioned by the agents on

FAELDON

Rivas' visitors, including Faeldon.

"They asked me if I knew the man with a full beard and mustache," she said in Filipino.

She told the agents that she had not seen Faeldon except on TV, and that other than Rivas' male relatives, "no man had slept in the studio."

She also told them that she had been hired by Rivas three years ago, but that the latter had been staying at the studio for a longer time.

Bedroom door

Manny Borja, a barangay official of Tugatog, said the raid lasted for more than an hour because they had to wait for Rivas to arrive.

He said the Isafp agents did not want to destroy the door to Rivas' room.

Borja said he heard one of the agents tell someone on the phone to bring Rivas so she could open her bedroom door.

He said the raiding team arrived at the studio at 11:45 p.m. on Friday, and Rivas was brought there by military escorts at about 1 a.m. Saturday.

The operation was concluded at past 2 a.m., he said.

Borja also said only four agents entered the house. The rest—about 20 operatives on board three vans—were stationed around the area.

Kison showed the media brief footage of a handcuffed Faeldon at the Isafp compound taken at noon yesterday.

No footage of Rivas was shown but Asadon said she was "in good condition."

Kison said the two officers were being debriefed at the Isafp compound. He refused to give details but said Rivas might be put under technical arrest during her trial.

Faeldon denies relationship

According to lawyer Roel Pulido, Faeldon claimed that Rivas was with him because "he believes she intends to join the Magdalo Group."

Faeldon reportedly described his relationship with Rivas as one "based on having the same principles and values."

Pulido said Faeldon confirmed that he and Rivas were arrested Friday night in Malabon while they were in Faeldon's car.

Pulido said the two tried to outrun the arresting Isafp agents but they got caught in a traffic jam.

"They were surrounded by agents who were pointing guns at them. That's why they did not resist arrest," Pulido said.

Faeldon confirmed that he and Rivas met at the SM North Edsa parking lot that night, Pulido said.

"They met because they were supposed to talk about the plans of Captain Rivas," Pulido said.

He said his client accused the military of insinuating a romantic involvement with Rivas "to cover up the fact that [Faeldon] was gaining support in the military."

Pulido said Faeldon told him that Rivas specifically asked for him [Pulido] to represent her when she faces her interrogators.

But without any formal notice from Rivas herself or her family, Pulido said he could not yet ask to see the Jago lawyer.

Pulido waited nearly the entire day at the Isafp compound in Camp Aguinaldo to see Faeldon.

Pulido said Faeldon's first words to him were: "Tell everyone *na hindi makukulong ng bakal na rehas ang pakikibakang umusbong na* [that steel bars cannot contain the growing struggle]."

Pulido said Faeldon also asked him "to tell everyone this is just a temporary setback."

"He's okay. They did not hurt him. But he's in solitary confinement, in a very dark cell with little ventilation," Pulido said. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

'They only had eyes for each other'

From page A1

compound along with the other mutiny leaders—Navy Lieutenants Antonio Trillanes IV and James Layug, Army Captains Miles Maestrecampo and Gerry Gambala, and Marine Capt. Gary Alejano.

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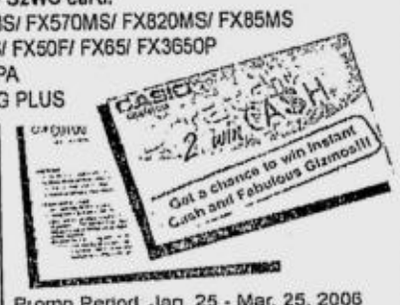

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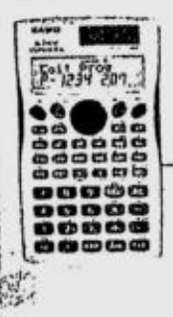

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Lover's trail led to arrest

From page A1

er Magdalo officers from an Army detention facility in Fort Bonifacio on Jan. 17, triggered speculations of a new coup attempt against the administration of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Rivas to be charged

AFP spokesperson Col. Tristan Kison announced yesterday at a news conference in Camp Aguinaldo that Rivas would be charged before military and civilian courts for keeping Faeldon's whereabouts from her superiors.

Kison said military lawyers were preparing charges of violation of Article of War 96 (conduct unbecoming an officer and a gentleman) and Article of War 97 (conduct prejudicial to good order and military discipline), as well as violation of the Code of Ethics for Public Officials and the Code of Ethics for the Legal Profession.

"Under the Revised Penal Code, she could also be charged as an accessory to the crime of coup d' etat, but our lawyers are looking into this. They are now preparing the appropriate charges," Kison said.

At the mall

Per the AFP's official version, Faeldon was arrested while traveling in a red Toyota Corolla sedan (with plate number PPT 346) along General Pascual Street near the MacArthur Highway in Tugatog, Malabon, at around 8:30 p.m. on Friday.

"From the initial investigation, Captain Faeldon picked up Captain Rivas in a grocery [store] in Quezon City," said Kison, denying speculation that Faeldon had met with Rivas in Camp Aguinaldo, where the Jago is based.

But according to military insiders, Faeldon met Rivas at the fourth-floor parking lot of the SM North Edsa mall, after which they proceeded to Malabon in Faeldon's car.

They were reportedly intercepted by members of Military Intelligence Group 24 along General Pascual Street at 8:10 p.m.

Kison said a number of fake driver's licenses and fake ID cards for Faeldon were found in the car.

Capt. Val Asadon, a Jago officer assigned to Isafp, told reporters that no firearm was found on Faeldon.

Kison also said that based on documents found with him, Faeldon had tried to "visit" the AFP Central Command headquarters in Cebu City but only got as far as the Marriott Hotel near Camp Lapu-Lapu.

Not an 'asset'

Kison carefully worded his reply to questions on Faeldon and Rivas' relationship: "I cannot speculate, but I will just give you the facts—that when Captain Faeldon was arrested, Captain Rivas was with him.

"What I heard is that they came to know each other only after the Oakwood mutiny."

Kison said that Isafp did not use Rivas as an "asset" to track down Faeldon, and that the latter would still have been arrested even if he had not met with Rivas on Friday.

"We have other sources," Kison insisted.

Earlier, AFP officials said they had been having difficulty finding the fugitive officer.

"We haven't gotten any leads even in signal intelligence, even in human intelligence," Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin, a former AFP deputy chief of staff, said on Dec. 28.

Asked if Rivas helped Faeldon escape last December, Kison said: "Our teams are investigating this. They are looking at all these possibilities. That is a possibility."

Raid on studio

Supt. Reynaldo Lozada, Malabon deputy chief of police, said Rivas' one-bedroom studio, Faeldon's suspected hideout, was raided by Isafp agents several hours after the fugitive's arrest.

"Our assistance was asked by Isafp for an operation on a house which is believed to be the safe house of Captain Faeldon," Lozada said in a report filed at the Northern Police District.

Rivas' studio is on the second floor of a two-story house on Prosperidad Street corner Praleya in Tugatog, the report said.

The house is located in a quiet neighborhood that may be reached through three streets leading to the main roads, it said.

Rivas' maid, Melinda Valderama, said the raiders took a computer, diskettes and papers.

Lozada's report said it was Valderama who allowed the Isafp agents, uniformed police and barangay officials to enter the house.

This was Valderama's account to the INQUIRER:

The agents were not carrying a search warrant but they took video footage of the studio and waited for Rivas to arrive.

The maid was questioned by the agents on Rivas' visitors, including Faeldon.

FAELDON

"They asked me if I knew the man with a full beard and mustache," she said in Filipino.

She told the agents that she had not seen Faeldon except on TV, and that other than Rivas' male relatives, "no man had slept in the studio."

She also told them that she had been hired by Rivas three years ago, but that the latter had been staying at the studio for a longer time.

Bedroom door

Manny Borja, a barangay official of Tugatog, said the raid lasted for more than an hour because they had to wait for Rivas to arrive.

He said the Isafp agents did not want to destroy the door to Rivas' room.

Borja said he heard one of the agents tell someone on the phone to bring Rivas so she could open her bedroom door.

He said the raiding team arrived at the studio at 11:45 p.m. on Friday, and Rivas was brought there by military escorts at about 1 a.m. Saturday.

The operation was concluded at past 2 a.m., he said.

Borja also said only four agents entered the house. The rest—about 20 operatives on board three vans—were stationed around the area.

Kison showed the media brief footage of a handcuffed Faeldon at the Isafp compound taken at noon yesterday.

No footage of Rivas was shown but Asadon said she was "in good condition."

Kison said the two officers were being debriefed at the Isafp compound. He refused to give details but said Rivas might be put under technical arrest during her trial.

Faeldon denies relationship

According to lawyer Roel Pulido, Faeldon claimed that Rivas was with him because "he believes she intends to join the Magdalo Group."

Faeldon reportedly described his relationship with Rivas as one "based on having the same principles and values."

Pulido said Faeldon confirmed that he and Rivas were arrested Friday night in Malabon while they were in Faeldon's car.

Pulido said the two tried to outrun the arresting Isafp agents but they got caught in a traffic jam.

"They were surrounded by agents who were pointing guns at them. That's why they did not resist arrest," Pulido said.

Faeldon confirmed that he and Rivas met at the SM North Edsa parking lot that night, Pulido said.

"They met because they were supposed to talk about the plans of Captain Rivas," Pulido said.

He said his client accused the military of insinuating a romantic involvement with Rivas "to cover up the fact that [Faeldon] was gaining support in the military."

Pulido said Faeldon told him that Rivas specifically asked for him [Pulido] to represent her when she faces her interrogators.

But without any formal notice from Rivas herself or her family, Pulido said he could not yet ask to see the Jago lawyer.

Pulido waited nearly the entire day at the Isafp compound in Camp Aguinaldo to see Faeldon.

Pulido said Faeldon's first words to him were: "Tell everyone *na hindi makukulong ng bakal na rehas ang pakikibakang umusbong na* [that steel bars cannot contain the growing struggle]."

Pulido said Faeldon also asked him "to tell everyone this is just a temporary setback."

"He's okay. They did not hurt him. But he's in solitary confinement, in a very dark cell with little ventilation," Pulido said. *With a report from Gil Cabacungan Jr.*

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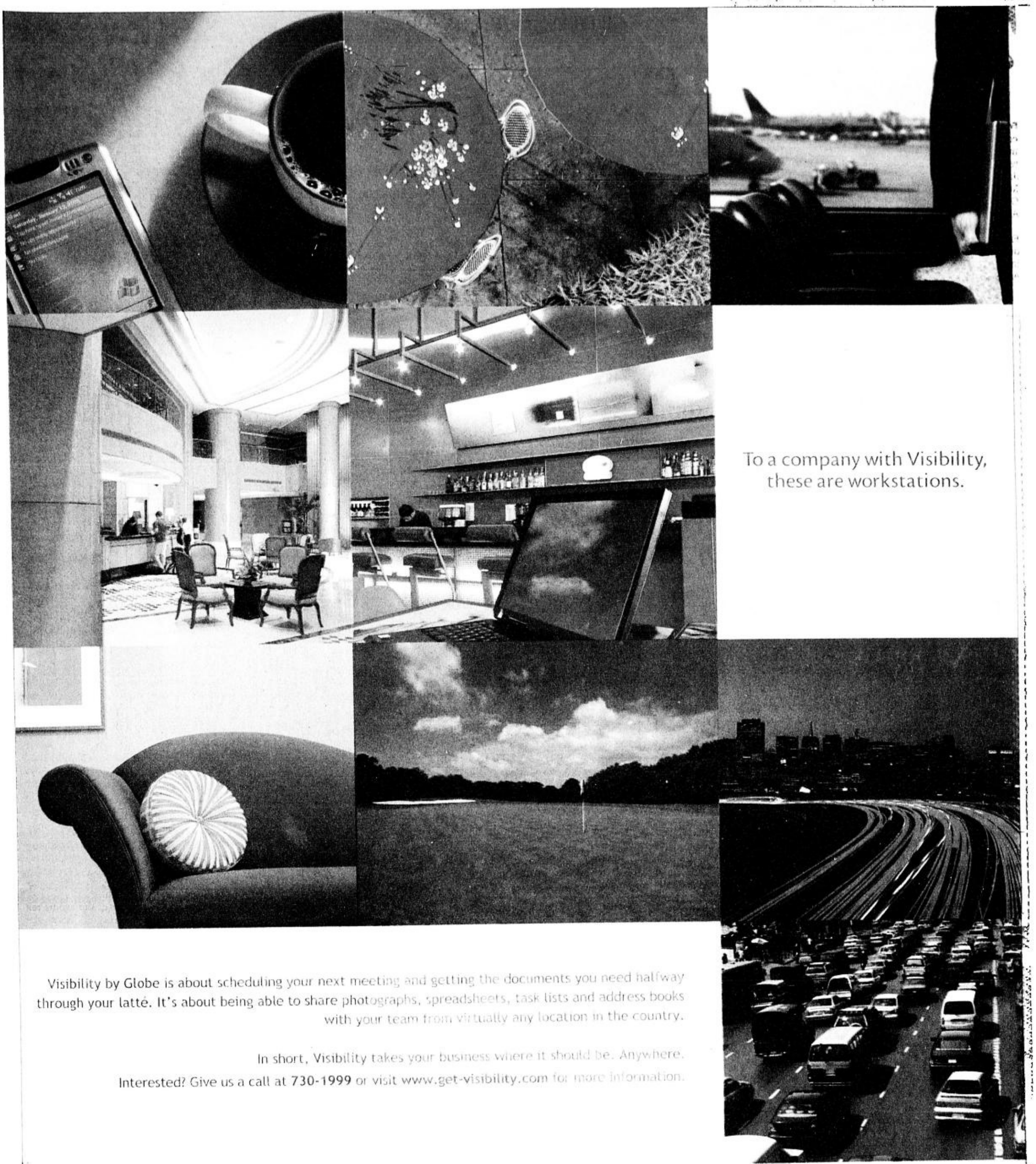

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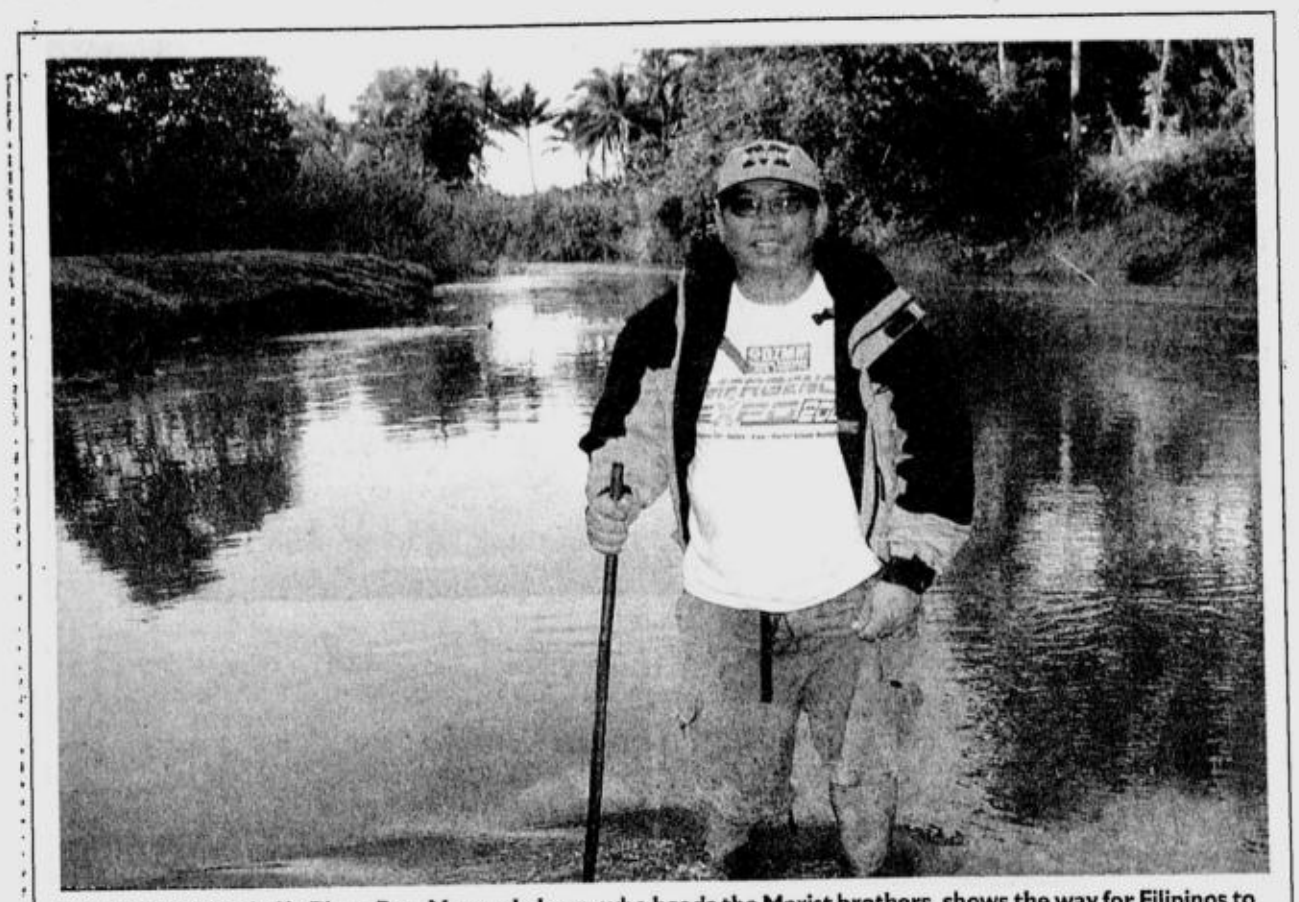

FOUNDER of Sagip Ka Pinoy Bro. Manny de Leon, who heads the Marist brothers, shows the way for Filipinos to do simple acts beneficial to each other. Across the river, Bro. Manny visit a Marist mission with the indigenous tribes in southern Palawan. CONTRIBUTTED PHOTO

Small acts of heroism can bring back dignity of Filipino

From page A1

shirt bearing a print of a Michelangelo painting. When he decided against buying it, the Italian vendor shouted at him: "Filipinos, no good!"

How it began

"It hit me hard," he recalls. "I kept asking myself if Filipinos were really 'no good' in the eyes of foreigners."

The following year, he organized Sagip Ka whose theoretical backbone was his dissertation at the University of the Philippines in 1998 on the "influence of family, school and society on student values."

Members can avail of two benefit packages shouldered largely by the insurance premiums collected from individual contributions, Bro. Manny says.

Medical, death benefits

For the first package, which is for members aged between 5 and 75 years old, a yearly contribution of P200 is equivalent to an ambulance service worth P1,000 and medical reimbursements worth P3,000.

If a member dies of natural causes, the beneficiary gets P10,000. Death due to an accident means P15,000.

The second package, available to those within the 5-to-65 age bracket, raises the amount of benefits with only an additional P800 annual contribution.

Contagious values

A member needing a heart bypass or a kidney transplant, for instance, can receive P50,000, on top of a P1,200 daily subsidy for a hospital room. The death benefit is raised to P25,000.

At least 1,000 members have received assistance, mostly in the form of hospital benefits, from the second package, Bro. Manny says.

The values the group has been trying to promote have been contagious, he says.

In Marikina, there are around 100 volunteers devoted to cleaning the streets with a very minimal salary from the local government. Their main objective is orderliness.

Teaching in the mountains

In Antipolo, a government employee spends his weekends teaching Dumagat children in the mountains of the Sierra Madre.

One pilot came up with a new way of producing organic fertilizer and is now teaching it among farmers in his community.

In Bro. Manny's case, he has built two machines—a mechanical shredder for organic waste and a compactor for residual garbage.

Elsewhere, someone is probably walking an old lady across a busy street. Or a vendor is chasing after a buyer who has forgotten his change.

Multiply these simple acts of heroism, says Bro. Manny, and the Filipino will get back his dignity.

Taipans put in P5B to get 5M tourists in 5 years

From page A1

TAN: $814M for refleeting PAL

SY: P7-B Mall of Asia by Manila Bay

business in tourism and leisure.

Taipan John Gokongwei is pouring in $670 million to refleet Cebu Pacific, in tandem with the expansion of his hotel empire (Holiday Inn and Crowne Plaza).

Metrobank's George Ty has quietly moved in with an initial P500 million investment in the heart of Philippine tourism, Cebu.

Through the family's property arm, Federal Land Inc., Ty will reopen the shuttered Cebu Plaza Hotel in partnership with the Marco Polo hotel chain. Federal Land is keeping its options open as it might consider building more hotels to meet the acute shortage of rooms to accommodate the surge in tourist arrivals.

But to achieve the 5-5-5-5-5 goal, Lim said the country would need more than the taipans' money.

"We're getting interest from other businessmen wanting to put their money in budget hotels, budget airlines, tourism transport services and toilet facilities because they see the taipans leading the way," Lim said.

5 gateways

For example, Lim said, the Philippines would join its Asean (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) neighbors in establishing a budget hotel chain charging only $25 a night.

In contrast to the government's plodding and cluttered tourist promotion program in the past years, the private sector-led BizTour 5 program is clear-cut and results-driven.

Instead of promoting the entire Philippines, the BizTour program has identified only five international gateways—Laoag, Manila, Subic-Clark, Cebu and Davao—where all investments in infrastructure, accommodations and attractions would be built or enhanced.

Security a top concern

"Tourists should be able to get to their destinations within an hour or two after stepping off the plane or boat," Lim said.

Aside from ensuring that investments were focused in key areas for maximum results, Lim said that this would also ensure that the government would have enough resources to maintain peace and security, a major concern of tourists.

Lim said the 5-million tourists target in 2010—double the expected 2.5 million tourists last year—"might look big but this is actually modest compared to other countries.'

Left behind

The World Tourism Council reported that a total of 800 million people travel every year, spending $1.7 trillion in fares, accommodations, food and shopping.

Until 2004, Lim said the Philippines had never broken through the 2-million tourists mark in 25 years, during which time neighbors like Malaysia (15 million) and Vietnam (3 million) surpassed the country.

"Even the small Phuket island in Thailand has more tourists (2.5 million) than us," Lim said.

Philippine tourism is fast gathering momentum with the Department of Tourism expecting arrivals to hit 2.6 million in 2005.

Aggressive Northerners

"We commend the government for its role in bringing in more tourists here, especially from Korea and China. The private sector's role is to ensure that they stay here longer and come back with more of their relatives and friends," Lim said.

Aside from spending P700 million for tourism promotion, Lim said the government also spent P35 billion in the last two years to build new airports and seaports and modernize existing facilities to make tourist spots more accessible to foreign visitors.

Lim said that while Cebu was way ahead of any region in terms of tourism development, Northern Luzon was the most aggressive in turning itself into a tourist mecca under the leadership of the governors of the Ilocos provinces, Pangasinan and La Union.

God's gift

"There are now more flights to Laoag than Cebu, with big groups of casino players, mostly from China, flying in," Lim said.

But of all the tourist gateways, Lim said Subic-Clark still had the most potential because of its huge land bank and strategic location.

Ultimately, Lim said, tourism would make up 15 percent of the country's gross domestic product.

"We may not be competitive in other industries but God gave our country natural beauty and we should use it properly to our advantage," he said.

Year of the Dog: Idealism takes over from cynicism

From page A1

home, heartfelt support for noble causes and sincere concern for the national interest.

Prepare for unconventional but effective changes because controversial issues will finally be heard.

In numerology, 2006 is equivalent to the number 8 which denotes prosperity and healing—mentally, emotionally and spiritually. It is a period where we work on our sense of values, crusade for peace and justice and champion projects that benefit humanity.

Loyalty, fidelity and domesticity are basic to the dog. Even those who would never consider settling down might find the concept suddenly appealing. Romance can come at the most unexpected moment.

It is also the time to realize plans, start a new business or just expand. New career moves are likewise encouraged.

Although the year promises to be auspicious it will not happen without earnest involvement, commitment to accomplish something and hard work.

Now don't forget to have fun along the way because sometimes, the dog can be so doggone serious.

Outlook for 2006

Rat: 1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996

A very busy year for the rat, both socially and professionally. There will be lots of activities involving unexpected opportunities. Challenges will serve to form a solid foundation for the greater good. Do not take your loved ones for granted. Say cheese!

Ox: 1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997

Your reliability, industry and common sense will work wonders for you this year. Complications will not prosper and your path will be clear of obstacles and opposition. Your knowledge will expand and leading you to your true place. Expect someone special to enter your life. You have the patience of the ox and this year, it will pay off.

Tiger: 1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998

This year will bring you good fortune. You will have to toe the line for a while, but it will help accomplish goals easily. Expect influential people to assist you. Unattached tigers will find partners this year. Tiger, tiger, burning bright...

Rabbit: 1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999

A smooth year for the rabbit. You will straighten out past problems, gain the recognition you relish and experience more gains. Be prepared to make decisions quickly. Time is of the essence. Hop happily, rabbit.

Dragon: 1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000

It is time for the dragon to listen, consult and investigate. Lay down a firm foundation of your heart's desires. Definitely not a good period for confrontation and argumentation. Use your dragon magic to multiply your goods exceedingly.

Snake: 1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001

Opportunities are knocking at your door. Now is an excellent time to use your charm and launch new ideas. Don't forget to make room for the opinions of loved ones. Skeptical snake, the year of the Dog will bring many significant and dramatic changes in your life.

Horse: 1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002

A financially good year for the horse. It's also a good time for recuperation and recovery. Rather than going it alone, strive for team work. Sharing the credit brings harmony and goodwill. Romance is in the air. Stop horsing around; go for it!

Sheep (Goat): 1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003

It's okay to be optimistic but the sheep should take care and stay on the conservative side. Most of the year will be satisfying and rewarding. Yes, there will be challenges, but you will easily find ways to handle them. Just don't take it out on those closest to you. Relax, meditate. The Dog year could shepherd you to your true place in the sun.

Monkey: 1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004

A period for research and discovery and really knowing what's going on around you. It's time to do your homework and lay the groundwork for an expanded and more evolved you. This is the year when you could get serious with a relationship (someone new or someone you already know). No more monkey business, please!

Rooster: 1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005

Be prepared for a lot of entertaining and travel. The rooster continues to prosper and recover lost ground. Your plans are easily realized. Your personal life could be clouded by some secret unhappiness or brooding. This must be addressed and not swept under the rug, so to speak. It's time to pay attention to those who have been around a long time. Let all your crowing be the start of a new dawn!

Dog: 1910, 1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994, 2006

Now is the time to achieve what you have long wanted to do. This is your year! Decisions will have to be made and they have to be made quickly. Don't procrastinate. If you stay too long on the diving board, you may just change your mind and not take the plunge. Take a deep breath and dive. A good year for a dog to fall in love, make a serious commitment, or simply change partners. Doggone it!

Pig: 1911, 1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995

This is the time for the pig to lay a strong foundation by gathering knowledge and practicing perseverance. Up to now, your impatience has gotten you nowhere with your loved ones and associates. Not to mention with yourself. Don't be a pigheaded bore. Go out and enjoy yourself!

Gonzalez warns media: Don't play up opposition antics

From page A1

could be unwittingly used in destabilization efforts.

"You can never win in a propaganda against these people (opposition and anti-GMA forces) because—I'm sorry to say this—the media is very sympathetic to them," Gonzalez said on his public service program over radio station dwIZ.

He was commenting on the success of recently captured Magdalo leader Capt. Nicanor Faeldon in taunting and embarrassing the military leadership by posting on the Internet pictures of himself visiting Army and police camps undetected.

The pictures and stories of the Faeldon caper landed in newspapers and were reported on radio and television.

Big play

"If it involves the opposition, the media seems to be very enthusiastic in its bid to make a big play of what is happening," he said, noting that the media was less aggressive in reporting about the New People's Army allegedly being the top human rights abuser in the country.

In an interview with the INQUIRER after the show, Gonzalez lamented that "the media has always given importance to everything the opposition is doing ... There is nothing wrong in what I'm saying, it is a statement of fact," he said.

Asked if he was accusing the media of being part of the opposition's alleged destabilization efforts, Gonzalez replied: "I'm not saying that they are part of the opposition. What I'm saying is, in the treatment of news, they have a slant in favor of the opposition."

He pointed to the rise in nongovernment organizations and groups of unknown individuals demanding the ouster of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Most of these groups, including former civil society member Linda Montayre, have neither credibility nor anything sensible to say, Gonzalez said.

The daily media projections of these groups, he said, "add to the fire" of destabilization.

Reexamine role

"When there are demonstrations and rallies, every Tom, Dick and Harry comes forward—with organizations complete with acronyms— but saying nothing at all ... knowing that the media will give them mileage," Gonzalez said .

He asked media organizations to re-examine their role, warning that they were being used for destabilization "not by design," but for their alleged penchant to project what the opposition is doing.

"By giving importance to the opposition, they are unwittingly helping the cause of destabilization, especially if they make the anti-GMA forces appear a bigger threat than they really are," he said.

Gonzalez pointed to newspaper reports about the alliance of leftist and rightist groups, which he said would be of no consequence if the people did not support them in their bid to remove Ms Arroyo from power.

Equal treatment

"If they are given importance, the same treatment should be given to the government. The President should not be criticized simply for dancing with [Manny] Pacquiao, [nor should] the First Gentleman [Mike Arroyo be criticized] for greeting Pacquiao," he said.

He reminded the media that its role was to "inform, even educate, [but] not to destroy."

Asked if he considered the media a destabilizer, Gonzalez replied: "Not yet, because people see the truth behind what is reported in the media."

Last year, rumors of a DOJ draft declaration for a state of national emergency, as well as martial law, came with reports of the government's alleged plan to padlock media entities and arrest mediamen critical of the President.

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The WORLD

Bush threatens to cut US aid to Palestinians

WASHINGTON—US PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Bush on Friday warned of cuts in US aid to the Palestinians if the Islamic militant group Hamas does not dissolve its armed wing and renounce threats against Israel.

"If they don't, we won't deal with them. Aid packages won't go forward," Bush told CBS television in an interview as Hamas prepared to form a government after winning a stunning majority in Palestinian elections.

"That's their decision to make, but we won't be providing help to a government that wants to destroy our ally and friend. I don't see how you can be a partner in peace if you don't renounce violent aims," said Bush. "They've got to get rid of that arm of their party which is armed and violent, and secondly, they've got to get rid of that part of their platform that says they want to destroy Israel."

US officials had warned that Washington would carry out a top-to-bottom review of its aid to the Palestinians if, as expected, their new government includes Hamas.

"If there is a Hamas government, which now appears likely, we're going to have to review all aspects of our aid program, based on our policy and our law," US State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack told reporters. "We do not and will not give money to a terrorist organization," he said as Washington grappled with the shock victory by Hamas in Palestinian elections and its impact on US efforts to revive the ailing Middle East peace process.

This year, the United States budgeted no direct aid for the Palestinian Authority, but plans to provide $150 million to the Palestinians through the US Agency for International Development and another $84 million through the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian refugees in the Near-East, he said.

Asked whether Hamas participation in a new Palestinian government would imperil aid that goes directly to the Palestinians, McCormack replied: "I guess the short answer is you can't answer that question right now." But, he stressed, "the international community understands that the Palestinian people have humanitarian needs; they're a poor people." *AFP*

CHINESE NEW YEAR
Chinese artists perform a traditional dance for the Lunar New Year at a park in Beijing, China Jan. 28. REUTERS

Strong quake triggers panic in Indonesia

AMBON, INDONESIA—A MAJOR EARTHquake measuring 7.7 on the Richter scale rocked eastern Indonesia early Saturday, cracking walls and triggering panic, the US Geological Survey and local residents said.

The quake struck at 1:58 am in the Banda Sea, around 195 km south of Ambon city at a depth of 340 km, the US Geological Survey said in on its website.

There were no immediate reports of major damage or casualties.

Several buildings in Ambon, including the main shopping center, the Ambon Plaza, sustained cracks to the walls, but there was no major damage.

"It was so strong that people who were soundly sleeping were awakened," Ambon resident Sulaiman Tuasikal.

Detikcom news portal said the quake also cracked the walls of houses and government buildings in Masohi in Central Maluku, which is closest to the quake epicenter.

Hundreds of Masohi residents had fled to higher ground and refused to return to their homes, fearing a tsunami, it said.

The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center in Hawaii, which monitors seismic events and their tidal wave-generating potential, put out a bulletin following the quake, but said no tsunami was anticipated.

"A destructive tsunami is not expected from the earthquake," Stuart Weinstein, the center's assistant director, told AFP.

"The quake was very deep. It's 340 km or roughly 220 miles deep. It's so far under the surface that it's not going to cause enough displacement of the sea floor that it'll generate a tsunami," he added.

On Dec. 26, 2004, Indonesia's Aceh province was the hardest hit by the 9.3-magnitude quake off Sumatra that triggered tsunamis which killed more than 220,000 people around the Indian Ocean.

An official with the Jakarta meteorological office said it had recorded the latest quake at 7.3 on the Richter scale.

The tremor was also felt in Tual and Saumlaki, also in the Maluku island chain, as well as in Sorong in Papua province, Kupang in East Nusa Tenggara province and the South Sulawesi provincial capital of Makassar, he told AFP. *AFP*

German hostages in Iraq urge Berlin to help free them

BERLIN—TWO GERMANS HELD HOSTAGE in Iraq appeared in a video on Friday urging their government to help secure their release and German Chancellor Angela Merkel vowed to do everything in her power to free the men.

The recording, aired by Arabic news broadcaster Al Jazeera, showed the pair kneeling in front of four masked gunmen.

Their voices were inaudible, but Al Jazeera said the video, which had a date stamp of Jan. 24, the day of their abduction, showed the two men urging Berlin to help secure their release.

German Foreign Minister Frank-Walter Steinmeier told reporters the footage was "devastating." Merkel said all of Germany had been "deeply moved by the images" and vowed the government "will do everything it can to bring our fellow countrymen home safely, unharmed and healthy." Germany's foreign intelligence service, the BND, was analyzing the footage, though a spokesperson declined to comment on any conclusions BND analysts might have reached.

Iraqi security forces have set up checkpoints, circulated descriptions of the two engineers and made contact with local tribal leaders to help identify the kidnappers, a spokesperson for the US-Iraqi Joint Coordination Centre in Tikrit, Iraq said. Al Jazeera said the tape was received from a group that calls itself the Brigade of Ansar al-Tawhid Wa-Sunna. The group did not make any demands through the recording.

The word "al-Tawhid" is well known in Germany because of the "al-Tawhid trial" of Islamist militants at a Duesseldorf court that ended last year. *Reuters*

Homeless man gets public park as residence

TOKYO—A JAPANESE COURT HAS ORdered municipal officials to allow a homeless man to register a public park as his residence, a ruling that will grant him access to welfare benefits, local media reported Saturday.

The district court in the western city of Osaka on Friday ruled that 55-year-old Yuji Yamauchi can list Ogimachi Park, where he has lived in a tent since around 1998, as his official address.

The ruling was a victory for Yamauchi and some 6,600 other homeless living on the streets of Osaka, as only those with official addresses are eligible to apply for welfare benefits.

Following Friday's ruling, nine other homeless people living in Osaka parks tried to register their addresses, but city officials did not yet rule on their requests, the Mainichi Shimbun daily said. The city of Osaka plans to remove tents set up by the homeless in two city parks on Monday, Mainichi said. "I hope the ruling would stop the violent removal," Yamauchi was quoted by the daily as saying.

There are more than 25,000 homeless people in Japan, including about 4,500 living on the streets in the capital Tokyo, according to local media. *AFP*

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This is to notify the investing public that, on January 25, 2006, Philweb Corporation ("Philweb") disclosed to the Philippine Stock Exchange, Inc. ("PSE") the following:

"We wish to inform you that, at its meeting held today, the Board of Directors of Philweb Corporation (WEB) approved the investment of ePLDT in 20% (approximately 24 billion shares) of the resulting expanded capital of WEB. ePLDT's investment will be in the form of a primary issue of WEB shares.

Management was authorized to negotiate and conclude the agreement with ePLDT with reference to the specific terms and conditions of the investment, including the subscription price of the shares, which will be in conformity with the rules of the PSE.

At closing, ePLDT will become a significant stockholder of WEB; thus, ePLDT will be entitled to nominate three (3) directors to the Board of WEB."

The foregoing disclosure was circularized by the PSE via Circular for Brokers No. 0418-2006 dated January 26, 2006.

The PSE hereby advises that, on the basis of the disclosure: (1) ePLDT has not yet made the investment in Philweb; (2) there is still no price for the shares to be subscribed by ePLDT; and (3) the parties are still to negotiate the other terms and conditions of the proposed investment.

The public is advised to exercise prudence in making investment decisions.

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Health watchdogs launch $56-B plan vs tuberculosis

DAVOS—WORLD HEALTH CAMpaigners, backed by a pledge of $900 million from Bill Gates and political commitments from Britain and Nigeria, launched a $56-billion program here Friday to combat tuberculosis.

Unfolding over the next decade, the plan would prevent 14 million tuberculosis deaths, thanks to a mixture of grassroots work, a revolutionary vaccine and a new drug regimen.

Backed by the World Health Organization (WHO) and a wide range of countries, organizations and public and private donors, the Global Plan to Stop Tuberculosis would, if implemented, meet the UN's Millennium Goal of halting and then reversing the spread of TB by 2015. But the plan faces likely funding needs of $31 billion to meet its lofty target.

"Every 15 seconds someone dies of tuberculosis," Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown said as the plan was launched at the World Economic Forum in Davos.

He promised to put support for the plan on the agenda of the Group of Eight (G8) industrialized countries finance ministers at an upcoming meeting in Moscow.

Gates committed his charity to tripling funding against tuberculosis from $300 million to more than $900 million by 2015.

"Although it is almost eliminated in rich countries, it's still one of the biggest killers worldwide," Gates told a press conference. "This is a very tough disease." Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, head of the most populous country in Africa, the most TB-afflicted continent, joined Brown and Gates in urging business and political leaders to back the new program.

Obasanjo acknowledged that African countries had to play their role: "We must also contribute whatever we can to ensure that the effort succeeds." The plan aims to improve access to treatment, develop the first new TB drugs in 40 years as well as a vaccine to replace one in use since the early 1900s and new diagnostic tools.

Despite the availability of affordable, effective treatment, each year there are nine million new TB cases and nearly two million TB deaths worldwide, according to the WHO.

The consortium behind the plan, Stop TB Partnership, says the first phase of its campaign more than doubled the number of people placed on the so-called DOTS treatment strategy and helped India and China spot nearly 70 percent of TB cases. The heart of DOTS (Directly Observed Treatment, Short Course) intervention is to have careworkers closely monitor a patient to ensure that he or she completes a short course of powerful drugs.

Patients with TB often fail to stick to a drug regimen right to the end after their symptoms disappear. As a result, surviving TB germs rebound, opening the way for the patient to fall sick again and for the rise of resistant strains of the microbe. *AFP*

Code of ethics for espionage on the agenda

WASHINGTON—IS there such a thing as an ethical spy?

A group of current and former intelligence officers and academic experts think there is, and they are meeting this weekend to dissect what some others in the field consider a flat-out contradiction in terms.

The organizers say recent controversies over interrogation techniques bordering on torture and the alleged skewing of prewar intelligence on Iraq make their mission urgent. At the conference on Friday and Saturday in a Springfield, Va., hotel, the 200 attendees hope to begin hammering out a code of ethics for spies and form an international association to study the subject.

Conference materials describe intelligence ethics as "an emerging field" and call the gathering, not sponsored by any government agency, the first of its kind. The topics include "Spiritual Crises Among Intelligence Operatives," "Lessons from Abu Ghraib," "Assassination: The Dream and the Nightmare" and "The Perfidy of Espionage."

Organizers said conferees would ponder such timely issues as how many civilian deaths can be justified in a CIA Predator missile strike to kill a known terrorist, or what legal assurances a National Security Agency eavesdropper should demand before singling out the phone calls of an American linked to al-Qaida.

"As an intelligence officer, you are confronted with ethical dilemmas every day," said Melissa Boyle Mahle, who retired from the CIA in 2002 after 14 years as a case officer, much of it under cover in the Middle East. While she had received CIA training on agency rules and the law, Mahle recalled that she got "none whatsoever" in ethics. But she found that her work demanded constant moral balancing.

Mahle said she came up with her own ad-hoc ethical checklist, including imagining what her mother would say about a proposed action or how she herself would feel if it were described on the front page of an American newspaper. But she believes any officer would benefit from more rigorous training in moral decision-making. *NY Times News Service*

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Bush warns Iran

WASHINGTON—US President George W. Bush said Friday that sanctions against Iran were "certainly a real possibility" if Tehran does not do enough to ease fears that it is trying to develop nuclear weapons. "A free world cannot allow Iran to have a nuclear weapon; not just the United States, but those of us who value freedom," Bush told CBS television in an interview. "And that is why our strategy is to present and hold together a united front, to say to the Iranians: Your designs to have a nuclear weapon or your desire to have the capability of making a nuclear weapon is unacceptable." Asked whether sanctions would work against Iran, Bush replied: "I have said that is certainly a real possibility." Asked whether he had reviewed plans for possible military action, Bush said: "I think it's best I just leave it that all options should be on the table, and the last option is the military option." *AFP*

Saddam trial

NEW YORK—Iraqi government interference with the independence of the judges in the trial of former President Saddam Hussein threatens the fairness of the proceedings, Human Rights Watch said on Friday. The trial, which began last October, is scheduled to resume in Baghdad on Sunday after a five-day delay authorities blamed on witnesses failing to turn up. Other officials said the court was in disarray after the resignation of the chief judge, who complained of government meddling. "The demand for presiding Judge Rizgar Amin's dismissal, which contributed to his resignation, was nothing less than an attack on judicial independence," said Richard Dicker, director of the International Justice Program at New York-based Human Rights Watch. Saddam and seven co-defendants are on trial for the deaths of 148 men from the Shiite town of Dujail after a failed assassination attempt on the former Iraqi leader in 1982. *Reuters*

Hamas, Fatah battle

GAZA—Hamas and Fatah gunmen exchanged fire on Friday amid political turmoil as the long-dominant Fatah faction was threatened with a violent backlash from within after its crushing election defeat by the Islamic militant group. In the first armed clash between Hamas and Fatah militants since Wednesday's vote, three people were wounded in a gun battle near the southern city of Khan Younis. Some 20,000 Fatah supporters took to the streets in angry protests across the Gaza Strip, burning cars outside the Palestinian parliament building and firing rifles in the air. Some Hamas posters were ripped down by the crowd, which burned tires in the streets. The militant al-Aqsa Martyrs Brigades, part of Fatah, issued a statement threatening to "liquidate" the faction's leaders if they changed their minds and joined a Hamas-led administration. At separate rallies, thousands of Hamas backers celebrated their surprise victory. *Reuters*

Pinochet's daughter

SANTIAGO—The eldest daughter of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet was set to return to South America late Friday, said a government spokesperson, after she dropped her request for political asylum in the United States where she fled to avoid tax evasion charges. Lucia Pinochet Hiriart, 64, was expected to fly late Friday from Washington to Argentina, said spokesperson Osvaldo Puccio. "We have information that Mrs. Pinochet will leave tonight on a flight for Buenos Aires," Puccio said. Pinochet Hiriart was detained and denied entry Wednesday at Washington's Dulles airport upon arriving from Argentina. After 12 hours of questioning she requested political asylum. Pinochet's eldest daughter was stopped after failing to respond to a summons from a Chilean judge to be formally charged with tax evasion linked to secret accounts kept by her father. *AFP*

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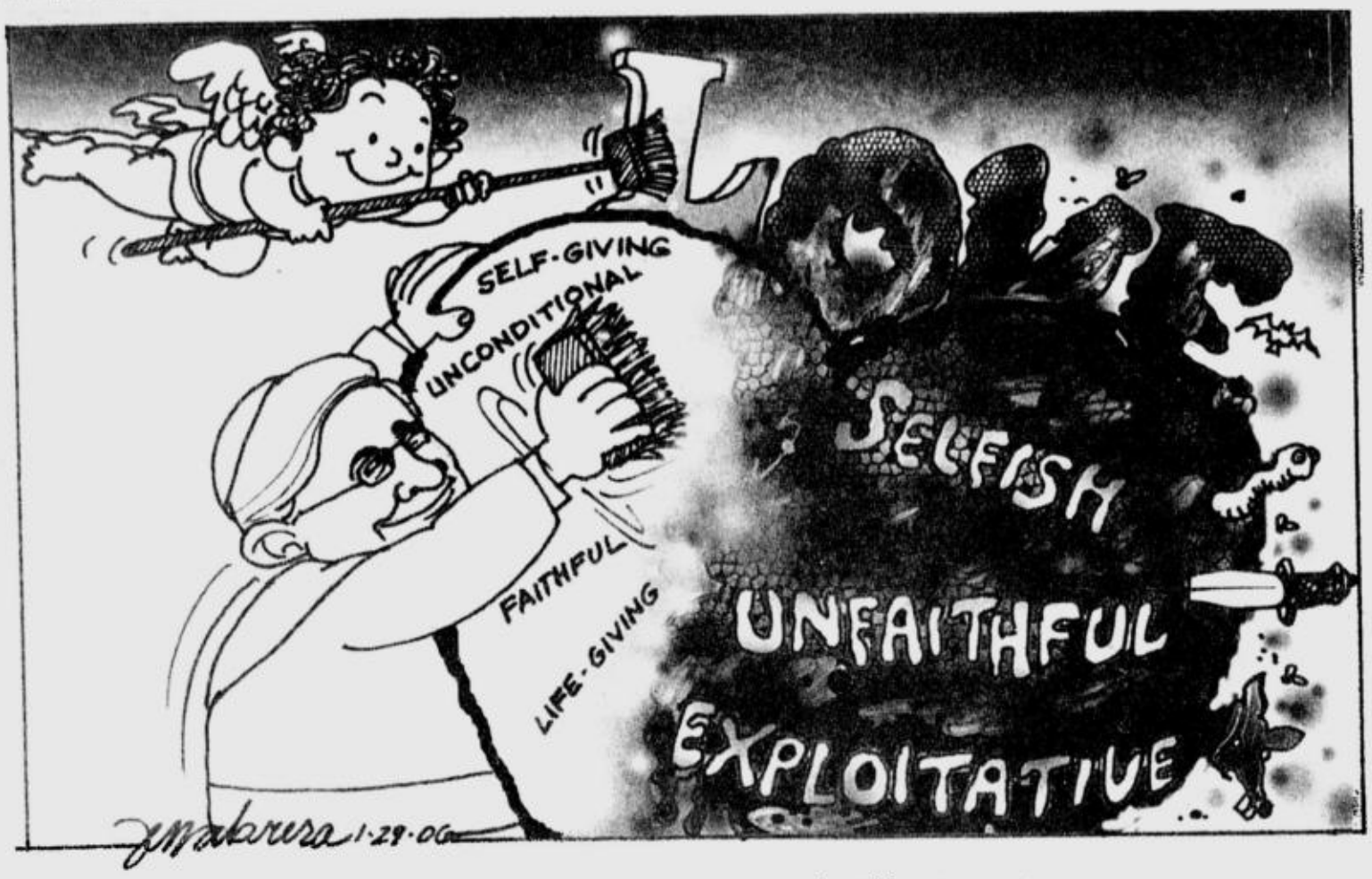

Bishops and soldiers

ARCHBISHOP OSCAR CRUZ IS PLAYING A DANgerous game. Well, perhaps "play" is the wrong verb, because the archbishop of Lingayen-Dagupan does not strike us as scheming or devious; it is possible he is merely, but also dangerously, an innocent abroad in the shifting landscape of Philippine politics. That makes the role he has chosen to play (or found himself playing) all the more risky.

EDITORIAL

By choice or circumstance, Archbishop Cruz has positioned himself in the last few days as a source of pressure on the influential body he once led, the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines. He has made himself available to journalists at the exact time the CBCP is preparing for the first of its two annual plenary meetings, and he has unburdened himself of comments which cannot be understood except as a series of determined attempts to achieve two aims: push the CBCP in a certain direction, and condition public opinion.

When deposed President Joseph Estrada wrote the bishops a "humble letter of appeal," seeking their intervention in his plunder case, Cruz told reporters: "We will take it into consideration. It will be considered." But perhaps realizing that he no longer speaks for the CBCP as a whole, the archbishop immediately qualified his statement: "I am sure that, in fairness, the letter will be taken into consideration. I do not think they will throw this in the waste basket."

When a group of Magdalo mutineers wrote a similar letter to the bishops, asking them for their support for the junior officers' "fight for justice and truth," Cruz also told reporters he had heard of the letter and was confident the conference would discuss it during the plenary.

When anonymous sources privy to the workings of the CBCP revealed that the bishops were receiving hate mail, largely because their much-anticipated July 10 statement did not call on the President to resign, Cruz again found it necessary (or unavoidable) to tell the media: "It appears that the people were discontented [with] the July statement. They were expecting more and the CBCP apparently didn't satisfy their expectations."

What's missing in all these statements? Context, and condemnation.

Like most everyone else, we look forward to the statement that the bishops may issue as early as this afternoon. But we do not share the assumption that the bishops, who have a spiritual responsibility, are politicians who must tailor what they say according to public opinion. In a modern democracy, their influence rests precisely on the fact that they can, as the idiomatic expression goes, call it as they see it. We do not need them to be popular; we only need them to remind us of the people's highest (or deepest) welfare.

We would have appreciated it if Cruz or any other source, whether wearing the cloak of ecclesiastical authority or hiding under the cloak of anonymity, had taken pains to explain the limits of any pastoral statement: grounded on the actual national situation, of course, but rooted in moral values and Gospel truths. (It is amazing to reflect how much the Gospel teaches us about living in a world painted gray, not bleak black or white.)

We would have appreciated it if Cruz or the CBCP had reminded the public that the responsibility for the sluggish pace of Estrada's plunder trial did not rest on the prosecution alone, and that any appeal that does not seek to speed up the pace is hopelessly misguided.

Not least, we would have appreciated it if Cruz or any other CBCP source had condemned the mere possibility of a coup attempt, as being economically retrograde and undemocratic in the extreme.

The country's moral leaders, whether those in the CBCP or outside it, must be as pure as Caesar's wife: They must not be seen as encouraging a political option that borrows the rhetoric of moral outrage but depends in fact on the use of arms. We have serious problems which not even Friday's euphoric welcome of boxing icon Manny Pacquiao can disguise; the President's crisis of legitimacy continues to fester, and requires redoubled efforts to force the system to hold her to account. The answer, however, does not lie in yet another coup attempt.

Bishops are priests too, and thus God's soldiers; they understand the value of obedience and the virtue of prudence. These days, it is their responsibility to remind us that there are no moral short cuts, and that over the long haul they will march with us.

'One nation in jubilation'

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

THE INQUIRER HEADLINE COULDN'T HAVE put it better: One nation in jubilation. The whole country was celebrating the victory of Manny Pacquiao over his formidable rival, the Mexican knock-out artist, who went down a battered and emasculated fighter who knew that he was licked. And by a TKO! There was joy unconfined throughout the land that their hero had once again raised their pride—and the Philippine flag—in the international sports arena.

The common exhilaration was delicious and unbelievable. You could see it everywhere—in the malls, in the streets, in private homes, in restaurants and even in churches, friends and strangers embracing each other in their adulation for Manny Pacquiao. He had once again earned the respect of the boxing world with his walloping triumph over the favored Erik Morales who had earlier beaten him in a controversial decision.

And all Filipinos shared their countryman's success—men and women and children, Christians and Muslims alike, the poor as enthusiastic as the rich, private citizens no less exhilarant than the public officials with different political loyalties, rebels forgetting their hostilities with the government, even grandparents watching with their grandchildren—all prayed that Manny Pacquiao would win, and thanked Heaven that he did.

Commenting on the general sentiment after the bout, Manny mused that "*Sana magkaintindihan na po tayong lahat.*" ("May we all finally end our differences.") Whether spontaneous or dictated, these words of this unpretentious man, whose expertise is in fisticuffs and not in politics and statecraft, deserve the respectful attention of the whole nation. He was deploring the strife-stricken condition of the country and hoping that, as united as we are now over his athletic feat, we might be similarly united in other aspects of the national life.

Manny was reflecting the aspiration of the common citizen, who is confused, irritated and bedeviled by the conflicts of the so-called experts on the Constitution and politics, the economy, education, health, and other serious problems confronting the nation. We are supposed to be one and indivisible country but there are barriers everywhere to prevent our unity. Can't we be united in the solution of our many problems as we are now united in celebrating Pacquiao?

Perhaps this ideal can be attained by—but God forbid—electing Manny Pacquiao President of the Philippines. With the present overwhelming sentiment in his favor, he could be a shoo-in at the elections with the support of our uneducated voters. This has been done before with the elevation to public office of scandalous misfits better confined in mental institutions or jails. But Manny is not one of them.

In my view, the only flaws in the telecast of the Pacquiao-Morales bout were Manny's political endorsement of President Gloria and, worse, the appearance of Mike Arroyo up the ring to congratulate Pacquiao. Arroyo is as unpopular as his wife, if not more so, and the Filipino audience must have resented the sight of him for diluting their pleasure. He was met with resounding boos.

Although Mike Arroyo attended the fight as a private person and presumably at his own expense, he was unwelcome nonetheless. He might learn a lesson in modesty from the late husband of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, a millionaire in his own right and a distinguished private person. He always made it a point to walk two steps behind his wife at the public functions he rarely attended and did not project or lower himself for public acclaim.

This low-profile model of humility and propriety was widely respected by his countrymen who did not have the poor taste of calling him their First Gentleman.

But back to Manny, I hope he will not allow himself to be inveigled into politics and instead confine himself to the boxing ring where he can best exhibit his extraordinary fistic prowess. Unlike corrupt politicians who steal and misspend taxpayers' money, he can honestly earn considerable income in boxing fees and millions of pesos, or even dollars, from television and radio commercials and other advertisements like those stitched on his boxing trunks or announced in the print media.

Pacquiao's victory was doubly impressive because his opponent was not a pushover but a worthy boxer with a string of laurels that made his fellow Mexicans weep when he lost. What many admired was when, after resting from his punishing ordeal that had left him defeated but not dishonored, he still had the grace to approach and congratulate Manny like a good sportsman. But shouldn't Manny have been more gallant if he had himself initiated the amenities?

I congratulate Manny Pacquiao for winning the fight but more than that for uniting the Filipinos in savoring his victory. Whipping Morales was only the means for the more important end of seeing our people arm-in-arm in common merriment, if only temporarily and for just an athletic event. Let us hope with him that we will finally resolve all our serious differences in the same harmonious spirit as we selflessly work together for our country's higher interests.

True fame

MOMENTS

Fr. Jerry M. Orbos, SVD

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A FATHER WHO named his first-born son "Pambihira" (Amazing). When the son was growing up, he hated his name because it caused everybody to make fun of him. He, too, became old and, according to the story, at his deathbed, he told his children his one last wish: no name on his grave, (just the date of his birth and the date of his death) so that people would forget the stupid name which his father gave him. But you know what happened? Every time people passed by and saw his grave with no name, they all, without fail, would exclaim: "*Pambihira talaga*(That's amazing)!"

* * *

In today's Gospel (Mk. 1, 21-28) people were astonished and amazed at Jesus and his teachings, and His fame spread throughout the whole region of Galilee. He taught with authority, so much so that even unclean spirits obeyed His commands. But his fame was not just a consequence of His words, much less of PR. It was a consequence of the actions that went with His words. True fame is not empty. It is solid. It is earned.

* * *

Manny Pacquiao's is a well-deserved fame. A lot of hard work, a lot of sacrifices, and a lot of punches and beatings preceded the fame he enjoys now. But how about those who ride on his fame? Shame on them. They who steal money from people are thieves. Likewise, they who steal limelight from people are thieves.

* * *

Pacquiao has a lot of money in his hands now. Good! He worked hard for it. In contrast, there are those who swarm around him now, who earned their millions by cheating, stealing and lying. Again, shame on them, and away with them!

* * *

Pacquiao wants to share his hard-earned fame and millions with the Filipino people. What a sharp contrast he is to people who want to keep fame and power to themselves, and who definitely do not want to share their millions and billions with the Filipino people, from whom they stole them in the first place! Let Pacquiao, a poor Filipino who earned his fame and millions in a hard and honesty way, be a moral lesson for all of us, especially for those who think they can use every and any Juan de la Cruz for their personal ambition and agenda.

* * *

Pacquiao has earned the name "Pambansang Kamao" (National Fist), and rightly so. May he jab on everyone who does not value hard and honest work, sacrifice and perseverance. May he left hook all the selfishness and dishonesty out of everyone of us. May he uppercut all the hypocrites and liars in our midst. And may he knock down and out all the corruption and graft that have become so entrenched in our culture and society. Finally, may he stand for us as a sign that, in the end, goodness, family and God will triumph.

* * *

Lest we forget, there was another boxer who did our country proud in an undercard of the Pacquiao-Morales "Battle II." Jimrex Jaca came home with Pacquiao almost unnoticed amid all the frenzy. In contrast to the fame-grabbers and fame-riders, all he said was "*Para sa kanya* (Pacquiao) *talaga ito* (This is really for him)."

* * *

In the meantime, there are among us of much lesser fame and power who just keep on doing God's will, with or without the limelight. We all have a role to play in this life. The bottom line is that we all did what God wanted us to do, that we did not hurt people as we passed by, and that we passed on the light to those who are coming after us.

* * *

Today is the Feast of St. Joseph Freinademetz, SVD, our first Divine Word missionary to China, who was canonized in October 2003. He left his beloved Tyrole, North Italy, and totally gave himself to his beloved Chinese whom he loved so much that he said in the end: "I am now more Chinese than Tyrolese. And I would like to remain a Chinese even in heaven." In return, the Chinese loved him so much, and considered him a saint soon after his death in 1908. That is true fame—not forced, not imposed and, definitely, not stolen.

* * *

Here is a beautiful prayer to remind us that in the end, fame or no fame, all of us are mere instruments of God: "Lord, open my heart, temper my mind, filter my ears, and sweeten my lips, so that in me will flow your grace. Amen."

* * *

Inviting you to a pilgrimage to Fatima, Lourdes, and Medjugorje, from May 13-25, 2006. For further inquiries, please call 5238581 to 88; 5214156 or 7217457.

* * *

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, fame or no fame, let me do your will, just the same. Amen.

Death in the 'Third Dimension' (2)

REVEILLE

Ramon J. Farolan

JUST TO REFRESH OUR MEMORIES. UP TO THE early years of the 20th century, warfare was basically fought along two dimensions—land and sea. In his bestseller "Flyboys," the author, James Bradley, talks of a "Third Dimension"—the air, the introduction of which revolutionized the whole concept of armed conflict. It is a dimension that provides some of the greatest thrills of a lifetime, but it is also tempered by the understanding that the slightest miscalculation could result in disaster.

Yesterday, the Air Force family buried a young hero who sacrificed his life so that others may be spared from death. The traditional "missing man" formation—part of Air Force rituals—is a final salute to airmen who fall in line of duty and, in many ways, exemplifies the close ties of kinship which binds together a brotherhood of men and women, dating back to the days when the Wright brothers first took to the air more than a century ago.

The report on the death of Capt. Aniano M. Amatong Jr., 31, brought back memories of the past—perhaps, a reminder of how kind fate has been to this old soldier. Fifty years ago, as a newly-minted second lieutenant fresh from a stint as a platoon leader in the 4th Battalion Combat Team (BCT) of the Philippine Army, I flew solo for the first time in a wonderful airplane, the PT-13, an open cockpit biplane. Let me say this about flying in one of these old dinosaurs which have now been relegated to air museums in the United States—nothing beats the feel of the wind rushing against your face as you soar into the heavens with the world beneath your wings. And nothing you will ever experience can compare with that first solo flight as you break from the bonds of Mother Earth with only yourself to ensure a safe return.

The instructor pilot who released me for solo flight was Captain—now retired Colonel—Johnny Estoesta, a hotshot Mustang fighter pilot from Basa Air Base. He was assigned to Fernando Air Base along with other fighter pilots for a cooling-off period after a spate of accidents involving fighter aircraft. It was also another fighter pilot, the late Lt. Marcelo "Lito" Barbero who released me for solo in the advanced trainer, the T-6, famous for its ground looping tendency—an embarrassing situation which brought out the fire truck at Fernando Air Base and resulted in a reprimand for the student pilot. I remember them along with all my other flight instructors with affection and gratitude for providing me with the fundamentals of airmanship, aware that everything else rests with the great Co-pilot above who makes the final decision about our lives.

Capt. "Junie" Amatong was an Army brat, the son of retired Army Colonel Aniano Amatong Sr. But he was anything but a "brat." Like many kids of military parents, he moved around a lot. Born in Cebu City, he finished secondary education in Pasig, then went to college in Zamboanga City before entering the Philippine Military Academy and graduating with the class of 1996. The second in a large brood of eight brothers and a sister, he was a kind, hardworking role model for his younger siblings. In the Sword yearbook of the class, Junie wrote: "I would like to thank my father and mother who were very supportive and understanding. They gave me the will to pursue my dreams and ambition. I would also like to thank my brothers and my sister who were always there to help."

In his short Air Force career, Amatong won four Gold Cross medals, the third-highest combat award of the AFP, for his participation in combat missions, mostly in Mindanao. On his last flight with Capt. James Acosta, their OV-10 Bronco developed engine trouble on the way to Clark Air Base for Joint Air Attack Training (JAAT) with US forces. After ordering his co-pilot to eject, Amatong steered the aircraft away from populated areas. By then, it was too late for him as the plane went down among fishponds in Paombong, Bulacan. A partially opened parachute was part of the wreckage.

The OV-10 Bronco was first flown in August 1967 and was used by the US Air Force for forward air control and light attack missions. Several versions were later developed as a multi-role, counter-insurgency aircraft for different nations—the OV-10C for Thailand, the OV-10E for Venezuela and the OV-10F for Indonesia. Last year, Thailand turned over to the Philippine Air Force eight OV-10Cs. They form part of the air assets of the 15th Strike Wing based at Sangley Point, Cavite under Brig. Gen. Oscar de Guzman, Class of 1974. It was helicopters from this unit under then Col. Antonio Sotelo that turned the tide 20 years ago in the Edsa Revolution.

Last Friday, in necrological services honoring him, Capt. Aniano Amatong Jr. was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Aviation Cross, the AFP's top award for airmanship and heroism of the highest order. The award was presented by the commanding general of the Philippine Air Force, Lt. Gen. Jose Reyes. Amatong is survived by his wife, Arlene Balbanero Amatong, daughter of the late Brig. Gen. Pedro Balbanero, Class of 1957, and a son, Ian Kyle.

* * *

Three weeks ago, old friends from Jakarta days gathered for the wedding of Kartini Alampay and Richie Ladrido, children of Jing and Girlie Alampay, and Eugenio and Estela Ladrido. Kartini, only daughter of Jing and Girlie, is named after one of Indonesia's leading female figures in its struggle for independence and development, a reflection of the many years spent by the Alampay family in that great and beautiful land.

Knock out

REBEL WITHOUT A CLUE

Patricia Evangelista

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT MANNY PACQUIAO. HIS children have been interviewed at a rate more frequent than Thalia of *teleserye* fame was during her publicity tour; and his hapless mother has been repeatedly interrogated on the secrets of successful parenthood: "*Suportahan ninyo anak ninyo kung saan sila masaya, kung hindi, baka hindi kayo maging milyonaryo.*"

It has come to a point that hearing of Manny yet again on primetime news (singing his box-office hit, along with the grinning, lyrics-clutching President) or the mention of him now results in resigned moans from everyone but the most diehard fan. There are dozens of commentaries, specials, articles and reports that raise Pacquiao from the level of Ninoy Aquino's pedestal to one that's slightly above the Pope's.

Fair warning: this is going to be one of them.

Early last Sunday, I sat through all 12 rounds of an undercard bout and what must have been five dozen million-peso commercials, patiently waiting for the much-touted Pacquiao-Morales rematch. I was already at the point where I was half-convinced of the superiority of Darlington socks (and the power of Alaxan) when I heard excited screams erupting from the apartment unit in the building across mine. My housemate and I bounced up from the couch and raced to the windows. I nearly fell off the window craning my neck, but all we saw were faint shadows through the curtains—and a satellite dish.

We spent the next 20 minutes telling each other that no, what we were watching couldn't possibly be a delayed telecast, the networks couldn't be that cruel; but our neighbors (and what sounded like the whole of the UP cheering squad) were squealing Morales' and Pacquiao's names with heartfelt fervor to the tune of the noise rising from more than 14,000 fans in the Las Vegas arena.

Needless to say, I spent the next two hours banging my head on the linoleum, plotting half a dozen ways of how to get ourselves invited next door (ranging from sugary smiles and batted eyelashes to "Excuse me, do you think our cat got into your apartment?").

When the delayed telecast finally began, I was sitting on the floor a foot away from the TV. I like to think I'm a pacifist. Although I admit to having been a constant cause of physical harm, the torn ligaments, bleeding knees and sprained dignity have all been my own. The one exception was when I was 5 and sobbing my eyes out because my 12-year-old brother refused to run Disney's "Snow White and the Seven Dwarves" on the player. So I picked up the "Snow White" Betamax tape, and for the first and last time in my life, hit the target where I aimed. The memory of my brother's bloody nose attests to the fact that cartoons do induce violence in children.

That being said, sweaty, half-naked men trying to pound each other into a pulp have never held that much of an interest for me (unless the half-naked man happens to be Johnny Depp in swimwear).

Two minutes into the first round, I was bouncing around on my bare feet, punching the air and wincing with each hit that landed on Pacquiao. By the second round, I was out for blood. I wanted Morales crushed, maimed and broken. I wanted to see that gorgeous Mexican face connect to the business end of a boxing glove. I wanted him on the ground begging for mercy.

It didn't help that I couldn't figure out what was going on. I mean, sure, if one of them fell to his knees, I'd know who was winning. But if they just kept pounding away, how was a girl supposed to know who pounded better? Since I didn't want to be left out, and I figured the people in the Thomas and Mack Center knew what they were doing, when they cheered, I cheered. When they gasped, I gasped. When they booed the referee, by God, I booed with the best of them. I thought it was a pretty good system. I only accidentally cheered for Morales once.

We received several text messages, all of which we ended up reading out loud in spite of resolutions to wait out the game to the bloody end. Another pal, who was camped out on the couch and chomping on chicken, called out a message from someone who claimed to be watching the game. "Morales won," he read. I felt my face begin to crumple. "It's on CNN already. Congratulations to the champion Morales," he paused, "New president of Bolivia."

By round seven, I had declared myself an expert at the sport. "Morales is getting weaker," I said with the authority of someone who has never seen a boxing match in her life before. "I think it was the jab on the stomach, the one right before he got hit on the face." It was then that I started praying and muttering the combination of a shrieked "Oh, my God!" and "let-him-win-let-him-win-let-him-win."

When Pacquiao finally knocked out Morales, I stood in front of the TV for a whole minute before I realized it had ended. Pacquiao had won, the world was applauding on its feet, and I was one of the close to 90 million other people who could claim to share the same 300,000 square kilometers as the reigning lord of the ring.

An hour after, I called for a cab to go to work. I barely had half of my quite considerable backside on the seat when the driver launched into his interpretation of the match and Morales' sheer foolhardiness for thinking he could measure up to the Pacman.

The same went for the drivers of every taxi, jeep and tricycle I've ridden in the past six days. In the market, the cashier was so busy agreeing that "*Si* Manny *natin*" was invincible that he forgot to ask me to pay for my kilo of tomatoes, while my professor lost his legendary cool and admonished the poor penitent lout who had the temerity to confess he had bet on Morales. For the last week, I'm willing to bet every awkward silence was smoothed out by one question. "Did you see Pacquiao's fight last Sunday?"

We may be the second most dismaying country in Asia, and we may be in a position to claim to have the craziest politics this side of the world, but for that single point in history, that moment when a red boxing glove sent a strong man on his knees, we were the proudest. If ever the one they call the greatest fighter in Philippine history deigns to glance through this column, I want one thing known.

My kid is going to be a boxer. (And I'm going to be a millionaire.)

* * *

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God bless you, Ms Pacquiao

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

GOD BLESS MS DIONISIA PACQUIAO, MOTHER of the "man of the moment" for injecting a note of realism and common sense in the euphoria of her son's homecoming.

In a live interview with an early morning TV show, the announcers were cajoling Ms Pacquiao and her estranged husband to start showing some affection to each other, with Manny even roped into acting as go-between. After the requisite hugs and smiles, however, Ms Pacquiao stood up suddenly and exclaimed: "His new wife is in Gen San, waiting for him!"

This comment was in general ignored, but Ms Pacquiao showed that while she was willing to play along with the hype and the good feelings surrounding her son's victory and return, some things in life lie beyond the purview of sensationalism and sentimentalism.

So God bless you, Ms Pacquiao, for truth-telling and being true to yourself. No wonder you raised a son as brave and bold as Manny.

* * *

DOMENICA Idwa, 26, is a teacher and girls' advisor in a refugee school in northern Uganda. She is also one of the thousands of refugees from the Sudan who, despite the end of formal hostilities in their homeland, are still hesitant about crossing the border and starting lives anew there.

"The men are saying they are going to implement 'African culture' when we go back to Sudan," says Domenica. "But that culture has gone with its time.

"We are not going to leave our human rights in Uganda," she says firmly. "We are going to stand strong. We are not going to let ourselves down and we are going to encourage the women who stayed in South Sudan to come up."

In an article in the magazine Refugees, published by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, Kitty McKinsey writes of the many difficulties that returning refugees face in South Sudan.

"Women, particularly those who sought refuge in Uganda and Kenya, have had opportunities for education and community leadership during their exile that they never would have had in Sudan's traditional culture," writes McKinsey.

But clashes between traditionalists in the homeland and new arrivals, who have been exposed to new knowledge or new ways while being away on exile for over a decade, are not the only concerns of the refugees waiting to cross over.

For many, their biggest fear is the land mines that are scattered all over Southern Sudan, and the firearms that have proliferated and have turned the area into an arena of violence.

* * *

AFTER 11 years in exile in Uganda, Victoria Stima, 32, says she would love to take her two sons and two daughters home. But, she still harbors fears of what a homecoming would bring. "I heard from people that Sudan is already okay, but there are land mines," she says. "If I go to collect firewood, I could step on a land mine and die. It's difficult for me to go there from outside. I don't know where the land mines are."

Domenica herself voices concerns about the land mines. "Health care, water and education might be put in place in South Sudan," she tells McKinsey, "but the most essential thing is if there are no land mines. This causes us fear going to cut building materials or cultivating land. De-mining is really the most important thing."

Indeed, McKinsey notes that "unexploded ordnance, unmapped land mines and small caliber weapons—the legacy of wars that have tormented Sudan for 27 of the last 40 years—are among the chief obstacles preventing some 550,000 refugees and 4 million people displaced within Sudan from returning to the south of the country, even after the...peace accord."

The painful legacy of Sudan's wars has hit home for the family of Patrick Gonda, who was a teenager who loved swimming and playing football when he returned to Sudan with his parents and siblings. A few months after their return, however, Patrick and a friend found a shiny 120 mm anti-aircraft artillery shell not far from their home. "As they carried the unfamiliar object home," writes McKinsey, "it slipped from their hands and exploded with a thunderous blast that was heard for miles around, and shredded large trees some distance from the bomb crater."

* * *

SURROUNDED by women sitting silently on mats on the ground, mourning the loss of Patrick, his father Ben pleads for outsiders "to do more to make sure other families don't have to go through his agony."

"People should go to the schools and tell them what bombs are," he says passionately. "They should tell the newcomers because they have no way of knowing about these bombs."

Such an effort is urgent and necessary. In South Sudan these days, notes McKinsey, young people dismantle unexploded bombs to use the metal components as rings and bracelets. Others sell the bombs to local blacksmiths as scrap metal.

Filipino children and even adults dying or losing limbs to mines and unexploded bombs, some of them of World War II vintage, regularly figure in local news. Indeed, so common have these incidents become that they're no longer headline material, though notable enough to make it even on early evening newscasts.

But there are no exact figures on how many land mines and other explosives are buried or have been dumped, especially in Mindanao where decades of conflict have turned the fields into literally "killing" fields.

Indeed, what an irony that explosives and mines used in "wars of liberation" ostensibly for the good of the masses end up maiming and killing the same people in whose name wars are fought.

Pacquiao: the trade in images

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David

THE WORD "*PAKYAW*" APPEARS IN MANY OF our dialects. It means "wholesale," though it's rarely used as a family name. The family of Manny, our boxing champion, spells it "Pacquiao," the Latin/Italian form that the 16th century voyager Pigafetta rendered the word he first heard in our islands. The word could have originated from the early Chinese traders.

As trade on our shores began to flourish, some people became known as wholesalers. These traders bought entire lots from a source and sold them to retailers. In time, the word acquired secondary meanings. *Pakyaw* also refers to a contract to do a whole project for a fixed price within a specified period. Manny's forbears may have been among the first handymen who combined personal skill with a dash of entrepreneurship. Certainly, his performance at Las Vegas last week would have delighted his ancestors. It was a clean job, done with precision, and completed before the specified time. It made every Filipino proud.

The same word, however, kept ringing in my mind last Friday evening as I watched the country's biggest politician, Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, sing and dance on stage with a crop of achievers that included Manny Pacquiao, Miss International Precious Lara Quigaman, medalists from the recent SEA Games, and exemplars of honesty—Grade 6 pupil Cristina Bugayong and Police Senior Insp. Dominador Arevalo. It was as if a clever merchant had put on display a harvest of talent, achievement and virtue.

There is, of course, nothing wrong with the head of state personally congratulating citizens who bring honor to the nation. It is to be expected even more in a society that has gone through relentless demoralization. Ms Arroyo did what was right by phoning Pacquiao and Quigaman minutes after they were declared winners. On their return, she welcomed them into Malacañang and personally feted them. These are appropriate official celebrations of individual prowess.

Only a thin line, however, separates celebration from exploitation. Ms Arroyo, the political entrepreneur, has made it a habit to wrap herself in the medals and crowns of the individuals she applauds. What she lacks she seeks to acquire by association. She basks in the brilliance of Manny Pacquiao's decisive victory, as if that would dispel the darkness that surrounds her presidency. She draws from the clarity of young Cristina Bugayong's basic honesty as if, by some magic of association, that would erase all doubts about her own integrity.

The more her legitimacy is challenged, the more she resorts to riding on other people's positive images. No other president of this country, in my recollection, has, for example, been more publicly "prayed over" by all kinds of religious leaders than Ms Arroyo. I am told that most of these are solicited benedictions, received fulsomely by her for the benefit of the cameras. It is disgusting. In this manner are many innocent events used as messages in political communication.

We cannot fault Manny Pacquiao or Precious Lara Quigaman for the way Malacañang exploits them. They can always refuse to mouth lines that sound faintly political, but they are not responsible for the manner in which the state celebrates their achievements. Perhaps, even the bishops don't have much of a choice when faced with a request to bless someone who seeks grace.

But other people do. Two friends I respect and admire—former UP president Jose V. Abueva and former Supreme Court Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr.—had a choice, but both opted to lend their names and reputations to a politician who has done the greatest damage to the nation's institutions and who continues to govern on the basis of a questionable mandate. Dr. Abueva did so by accepting an appointment as chairman of the Consultative Commission to draft amendments to the Constitution. And Justice Davide did so by accepting an assignment as Presidential Adviser for Electoral Reforms.

I have tried to understand Dr. Abueva's decision as something that, perhaps, transcends the political issues of any given moment. His intentions are no doubt pure. He has been an advocate of federalism, and he may have seen in his appointment the perfect opportunity to place the federal idea on the national agenda. But in so doing, he has found himself shepherding a project that is clearly intended to solve the short-term political problems of the incumbent president. I cringe each time I see Dr. Abueva beside Ms Arroyo in a photo. This is not how I imagine a distinguished academic career to end: as a prop to a moribund presidency.

I feel the same way about Chief Justice Davide's acceptance of his new role as presidential adviser. It breaks my heart. Of the many non-institutional offices invented by past administrations, that of the presidential adviser is the most dubious. At best, it is a usurpation of existing institutional functions. At worst, it serves as a mechanism for political payback, a half-way station for favored individuals on their way to better destinations. Davide has taken on a job worth doing but impossible to do while Ms Arroyo is president. Can something be more difficult to imagine than electoral reforms under a President who has single-handedly wrecked what remains of the Commission on Elections? He must know that Ms Arroyo wants him not so much for what he can do, but for what he represents in the minds of those who admire him.

He and Manny Pacquiao are but the latest acquisitions of a politician who has mastered the trade in images.

* * *

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TALK of the TOWN

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

Economic costs of the Iraq war (2)

THE COST OF THE IRAQ WAR TO THE UNITED STATES IS FAR BIGGER THAN the $200 billion that Larry Lindsey, President George W. Bush's economic adviser, estimated as the US was preparing to go to war three years ago.

Then Deputy Secretary Paul Wolfowitz claimed that Lindsey's figure was a gross overestimation and that Iraq could "really finance its own reconstruction."

Like the information of the Bush administration on Saddam Hussein's "weapons of mass destruction," its estimate of the cost of the war was way off the mark.

Joseph Stiglitz of the University of Columbia and Linda Bilmes of Harvard University place the total cost of the war to America at more than a trillion dollars.

The total cost of the Iraq war rises to a staggering $1.8 trillion when direct expenditures ($1.1 trillion) and macro-economic costs ($750 billion), including higher oil prices, are added.

Like the US and other countries, the Philippines is paying for the costs of the Iraq war through high oil prices. Stiglitz and Bilmes estimate that $5 to $10 of the cost of a barrel of crude is due to Iraq.

They argue that military spending on Iraq would have contributed more to economic growth in the US if the outlays had gone instead to more productive investments like education, research and infrastructure.

By spending an amount less than the direct expenditures on the war, the US also could have fulfilled its commitment to provide 0.7 percent of its GDP to help developing countries. Stiglitz and Bilmes say that the amount "could have made an enormous difference, for the better, to the well-being of billions today living in poverty. We could have had a Marshall Plan for the Middle East, or the developing countries, that might actually have succeeded in winning the hearts and minds of those in the Middle East."

An appraisal three years after the beginning of the conflict

By Linda Bilmes
Kennedy School, Harvard University
and Joseph E. Stiglitz
Professor, Columbia University

AS LARGE AS THE DIRECT costs—current and future—are, the macro-economic consequences may even be several times larger. There are at least three major sources of macro-economic consequences: (a) the increase in the price of oil; (b) the increase in defense expenditures; and (c) the increased insecurity that has followed from the way the war has been pursued.

In ascertaining the magnitude of these macro-economic effects, there is a standard problem: the counterfactual, what would the world have looked like, but for the war in Iraq.

Security

The bombings in Madrid and London have only exacerbated a growing sense of insecurity. Would matters have been even worse had there been no war?

One of the stated objectives of the war was to enhance the sense of security (to make sure that the war on terrorism was fought there.) It is conceivable that the Middle East would have been even more unstable than it is today. But especially on the basis of what we know today—Iraq did not have weapons of mass destruction, and it did not have the capacity to develop them quickly—this seems unlikely. Contrary to the assertions before the war by the administration, Iraq (with its highly secular regime) was not working with al-Qaida, and was not a training ground for insurgency. Unfortunately, the disorder that has followed the war has provided a place where such training is going on today.

The costs of this insecurity are potentially huge.

(a) Individuals are risk averse, and there is thus a direct quantifiable cost associated with the increase in risk.

(b) The response to security threats has been to create significant barriers to the free flow of people, goods and services. The administration champions the virtues of free trade and the benefits from lowering trade barriers, even when those barriers are already low. But increased border security (including airport security, the reporting and registration requirements of the bioterrorism act, etc.) are trade barriers; not only are there direct costs associated with administering these security measures, there can be significant macro-economic effects of the reduced flow of goods and services. A special category of costs is associated with the significantly reduced flow of students to the US, especially in areas of science and technology, where we have become very dependent on these "imports."

(c) Increased risk is bad for business; it lowers investment, and over the long run thus has supply side as well as demand side effects.

Calculating these costs—and particular, the incremental costs associated with the Iraq war (beyond the costs which would otherwise be associated with the war on terrorism)—is sufficiently difficult and problematic that we do not provide any estimates here. But it means that the numbers reported below almost surely underestimate the total macro-economic effects.

Oil

The price of oil is significantly higher today than it was before the war in Iraq. Even as the country went to war, it was recognized that it might have effects on the global oil market. Some of the remarks of those in the administration seem to suggest that it may have even been a factor driving the country to war. Larry Lindsey, President George W. Bush's economic adviser, is reported to have said, "the best way to keep oil prices in check is a short, successful war on Iraq."

The higher price of oil brings costs and benefits. Profits of the oil companies have increased enormously. It is the one group (besides certain defense contractors) that has clearly benefited from the war. Here, we are concerned with the costs to the overall economy of these high oil prices.

First, however, we have to ascertain to what extent has the increased price (from $25 a barrel before the war to around $50 today—ignoring the spike associated with Katrina when prices rose to $60) been a result of the war itself. Again, the question is, what is the counterfactual? What would the price have been had there been no war? To what extent is the rise in price due to the war, and to what extent is it due to other factors?

Futures markets provide some insight. Before the war, they were forecasting that oil prices remain in the range that they had been, $20 to $30. Futures markets take into account growth in demands in China and elsewhere as well as changes in supply. They do so on the basis of "business as usual," that is, on the basis that nothing out of the ordinary happens. The war in Iraq was the most notable event, and it is hard to identify any other which can be given as much credit for significant change in demand or supply (apart from Katrina). Some might blame the high demand for oil from China. But China has had two decades of robust growth, and its growth in 2004 was stronger than many market analysts had anticipated earlier; but global growth in 2005 (of around 4 percent) is clearly not particularly unusual. Markets are supposed to anticipate and respond to changes in demand by increasing supply. Errors in one year are quickly corrected in the next.

What is striking is that present prices are significantly higher than what most analysts believe is the long-run price, and futures markets expect that such prices will persist for at least another two years. That is, costs of extraction in Iraq (apart from the security concerns), Saudi Arabia, and elsewhere in the Middle East are much lower than $40, and at $40 there are many alternative sources (shale, tar sands) with a large supply elasticity. The question is, why has there not been this normal supply response. We suggest that the war in Iraq provide the critical explanation.

Plummeting production

Had there been no war, and had price increased, the international community could have allowed Iraq to expand production, and this would have brought down the price. But it is more likely that production elsewhere, including and especially elsewhere in the Middle East, would have increased. The instability in the Middle East, which has been brought about by the Iraq war has increased the risk of investing in that region; but because costs of extraction are so much lower than elsewhere, it has not provided a commensurate supply response elsewhere. If stability is restored, then prices will fall, and these investments elsewhere would turn a loss.

In addition, there is the fact that oil production in Iraq has plummeted since the war. The insurgency has sabotaged refining capacity and truck drivers have refused to transport oil from the north, due to the threat of insurgents.

Though we believe, accordingly, that the best estimate of the cost of Iraq on oil prices is a very large proportion of the $25 a barrel or more increase in the price of oil (and looking forward, we can extrapolate this cost for the next two years), we provide a conservative calculation based on the assumption that only two percent of that amount—$5—is due to Iraq. In our moderate estimate, we assume $10 is due to Iraq.

Given US imports of roughly 4.75 to 5.0 billion barrels a year, a $5-per-barrel increase translates into an extra expenditure of approximately $25 billion ($10 would be $50 billion). Americans are, in a sense, poorer by that amount.

Assuming that a $5-price increase persists for five years, this generates a conservative estimate of $125 billion. For our moderate estimate, we use a $10 price increase, but more plausibly, assume it extends (as futures markets believe) for at least six years. That generates a cost of $300 billion.

PAGE DESIGN AND ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Global income and price effects

The value of national income is affected by the prices of other goods the country imports or exports, and these too can indirectly be affected by the increase in the price of oil. If, for instance, a global increase in the price of oil leads to a decrease in the price of other commodities (because of a global slowdown), then America is thereby better off.

There may be some commodities that the United States exports in which it has market power. In that case, we take firms as setting the price of exports to maximize profits. An oil price shock lowers income of buyers of American products, shifting the demand curve over to the left. The income effect (at least for a small perturbation) is just the change in profits at the old price. If markets are fairly competitive, the effect is small, but especially in areas of the new economy where markups are large, the losses in income can be significant. We have not, however, directly tried to estimate the magnitude of these effects.

Most macro-economic analyses, however, assume that there are more than just these (neoclassical or) supply side effects. This is especially important when the economy is operating below full employment. We noted that with the increase in oil prices, Americans are poorer; they have that much less to spend on other goods—including goods made in the United States.

Counterfactuals

The net effect depends on the macro-economic state of the world and how policy makers respond. If the economy is already in a world in which there is excess supply (demand constrained), then we need to focus on how monetary and fiscal authorities respond to stimulate demand. If the economy were in a state of excess demand, then the dampening of demand would lower inflationary pressure, but would leave output largely unaffected. Unfortunately, the post-Iraq war world is one in which there has been excess supply (demand constrained output) in all of the major economies.

Monetary policy response is determined by two offsetting factors. The oil price increase generates some inflationary pressures, and especially among central banks focusing on inflation, this leads to higher interest rates, exacerbating the slowdown of the economy. On the other hand, if central banks focus on aggregate demand and unemployment, it is conceivable that monetary policy could offset the adverse effects of oil price increases. If they fully offset the effect, then the only effect would be the transfer effect described earlier.

Fiscal policy typically does not adjust quickly enough to stabilize the economy (and the effect of built-in automatic stabilizers is reflected in the multipliers discussed below). Again, there are two effects. For countries with fixed expenditures, then the increase in the oil price means that there is less to be spent on domestic goods, and that exerts a downward effect on the economy. On the other hand, for countries running active countercyclical fiscal policies, the slowdown in the economy could be offset by such policies.

With Europe's Central Bank focusing on inflation, the higher inflation resulting from higher energy prices most likely contributed to higher interest rates than they otherwise would have been, and thus a further weakening of the economy.

Japan

In Japan, with interest rates close to zero in any case and fiscal policy stretched to its limits, probably little policy response can be attributed to the oil price increase.

The United States is the most problematic. It appears that fiscal policy has not been closely related to the short-run cyclical state of the economy. (The worsening of the fiscal position of the United States may have contributed to the resolve by some moderate Republicans not to cut taxes or expand expenditures as much as they otherwise would have done. In this sense, the oil price increase has probably had a negative effect on cyclical fiscal policy, i.e. the multipliers are larger than they would be if fiscal authorities took a "neutral" stance.) So too for monetary policy: the increased inflationary pressure from the high oil prices would, if anything, led to a tightening of monetary policy in response to the high oil price, leading to a larger multiplier.

We have not carried out a full global general equilibrium analysis, but rely instead on results of standard macro-economic models. These suggest an "oil multiplier" of around 1.5 (achieved over two years). Thus, assuming that the economy remains below its potential over the period of analysis, and focusing on the total impact (not the timing), our conservative estimate is increased to $187 billion, and our more reasonable estimate to $450 billion. These models, too, have no feedback from exports.

Some studies, however, obtain much larger results. The IMF's models yield results with longer lags, but with full effects that are almost four times as large.

One of the standard studies, that of Hamilton, estimates that in the past a 10-percent increase in the price of oil has been associated with a 1.4-percent decrease in GDP. A $5 increase in the price of oil thus implies a lowering of GDP by 2.8 percent, or approximately ($300 billion) per year that oil prices remain at that level. A five-year price rise would generate costs of $1.5 trillion. Hamilton's analysis is consistent with an oil price multiplier that is much larger than the earlier studies.

List of omitted costs

1. Defense and destruction costs
- Costs of planning war
- All costs borne by other countries, including Iraq
  - Military costs
  - Destruction of property
  - Loss of life
- All costs of increased insecurity
  - Increased costs of cross border flows
  - Reduced investment
- Consequences of loss of credibility
- Value of reduced capability of responding to national security threats elsewhere in the world

Value of reduced capability of responding to domestic situations in which the National Guard or the Reserves might have been called upon (as in New Orleans)

2. Macro-economic costs
- All costs of increased insecurity
  - Increased costs of cross border flows
  - Reduced investment
- Indirect aggregate demand effects (as a result of reduced incomes in trading partners)
- Costs of oil price volatility
  - Including on investment
  - Costs of bankruptcy
- Reduced demand as a result of anti-American sentiment
- Consequences of losses of asset values (arising from increase in oil prices or otherwise)
  - Equity markets
  - Housing
- Consequences of tighter monetary policy as a result of increased inflation
- Consequences of worsening fiscal position
  - As a result of increased government expenditures on oil
  - As a result of increased expenditures on the war

3. Other costs
- Costs of risks borne by individuals, including compensation that would be required to make them willingly bear risks
- Economic cost of impairment to earnings potential and quality of life for veterans who claim partial disability (estimate 160,000) but were not wounded during the conflict
- Health care costs not borne by the government.

Stock market, housing

Higher oil prices and higher interest rates to which the oil prices give rise also have effects on asset values. To the extent that these effects are greater than just the current year effects on profits, they suggest a persistence of the consequences that our previous analysis did not fully take into account, and the existence of large non-linearities. This is evident in the industries that are particularly sensitive to oil prices, like the airline industry, where many firms face the prospect of bankruptcy.

The surge in corporate profits in the last couple of years has not been accompanied by an increase in stock prices of the magnitude that would have been expected. Robert Wescott estimates that the value of the stock market is some $4 trillion less than would have been predicted on the basis of past performance. Assuming that the major factor contributing to that is the increase in oil prices, and that 20 percent of that increase in oil prices is due to Iraq leads to a cost of some $800 billion. This is several times the increase in the direct energy costs over the next few years.

Uncertainty about future oil prices also has a dampening effect on investment. Firms do not know what technology is appropriate for the economic environment that will prevail, and respond to that uncertainty by postponing investment. This has both an effect on aggregate demand and aggregate supply in the short run.

Concluding remarks

The most important things in life—like life itself—are priceless. But that doesn't mean that topics like defense, involving the preservation of our way of life and the protection of life itself, should not be subject to cool, hard analysis of the kind for which economics has long earned a reputation.

If Congress had been informed of the range of costs, perhaps if it had been told that the costs might exceed a half trillion, or a trillion dollars, perhaps, in the end, it would have made the same decision. But perhaps it would have been a bit more cautious in making that decision, looked a little harder at the evidence, thought differently about how best to conduct the war.

Americans could, and should have asked, "Are there ways of spending that money that would have enhanced our long run well-being—and perhaps even our security—more?" Take the conservative estimate of a trillion dollars. Half that sum would have put social security on a firm grounding for the next 75 years. If we spent even a small fraction of the remainder on education and research, it is likely our economy would be in a far stronger position. If some of the money spent on research were devoted to alternative energy technologies, or to providing further incentives for conservation, we would be less dependent on oil, and thereby more secure; and the lower prices of oil that would result would have obvious implications for the financing of some of the current threats to America's security.

While we may not know what causes terrorism, clearly the desperation and despair that comes from the poverty that is rife in so much of the Third World has the potential of providing a fertile feeding ground. For sums less than the direct expenditures on the war, we could have fulfilled our commitment to provide 0.7 percent of our GDP to help developing countries—money that could have made an enormous difference, for the better, to the well-being of billions today living in poverty. We could have had a Marshall Plan for the Middle East, or the developing countries, that might actually have succeeded in winning the hearts and minds of those in the Middle East.

What is clear is that the administration's original estimates were strikingly low. Would the American people have had a different attitude toward going to war had they known the total cost? Would they have thought that there might be better ways of advancing the cause of democracy or even protecting themselves against an attack, that would cost but a fraction of these amounts? In the end, we may have decided that a trillion dollars spent on the war in Iraq was better than all of these alternatives. But at least it would have been a more informed decision than the one that was made. And recognizing the risks, we might have conducted the war in a manner different from the way we did.

(Excerpts from a 36-page paper of the same title the authors presented at the meeting of the Allied Social Sciences Association in Boston, Massachusetts on Jan 8.)

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Aurora folk cope with life after tragedy

By Tonette Orejas
PDI Central Luzon Desk

DINGALAN, AURORA—AS TROpical Depression "Agaton"'s rains fell on this town on Monday, Nilda and Gerry Jimenez sat alert near their stone stove, waiting for coffee to boil.

Past the door, their daughter-in-law, clutching her year-old baby, stood on alert for signs of landslides that the couple was watching out for.

Five meters to the right of their house, which was half-buried by mud, were tons of boulders waiting to be washed out in Barangay Paltic.

From a distance loomed Mt. Mingan, from where Typhoon "Winnie"'s rains unleashed the mud, stones and logs on Nov. 23, 2004.

Down far south, water at the coast of the Pacific Ocean was milky brown. Gerry said this meant it was discolored by the eroded mountain soil.

Like Gerry, other fishermen did not sail out and kept guard over their families.

"We planned to leave when the rains get worse," Gerry, 45, said.

"*Kakaba-kaba pa rin* (There's still fear)," Nilda said. She said she always had a bag of clothes and blankets ready in case the situation forced them to leave.

The Jimenezes are among the 100 or so families who have returned to Paltic when they should not have done so.

Government geologists in March last year deemed the foothill village uninhabitable due to the risks of landslides and flash floods.

Gerry said there was little option for them. Only those whose houses were washed out or buried were in the priority list of the local government's relocation program. This policy shut them out of the assistance.

Gerry said his family could not move to the resettlement sites because jobs were not easily available there. In between fishing, Nilda and Gerry also gathered tree trunks to turn into charcoal.

The couple built a hut in Barangay Caragsakan, one of the highest peaks in the town, and that is where they go when heavy rains pour.

For their safety, they rely on reading nature's signs. Among those that they watch out for are continuous heavy rains, a blast-like sound indicating that soil has collapsed, and thick, soil-laden water flowing in the town's rivers and streams.

Mayor Jaime Ylarde called the Paltic residents "hard-headed," but said he understood why they chose to return.

Lack of resources, Ylarde said, limits the local government's response.

The national government has tried to reduce the threats in Paltic. The Department of Public Works and Highways has funneled P15 million in congressional funds for dredging and flood control at the Langawan and Paltic rivers and Subsub creek.

ROUNDUP

Bus rams tricycle; 45 hurt

CAMP OLIVAS, Pampanga—At least 45 people were injured, six of them seriously, on Jan. 23 when a bus rammed a tricycle and rolled several times on a steep hill along the Baler Highway in Maria Aurora, Aurora, police said. A Huey helicopter from the military's Northern Luzon Command flew six of the seriously injured to the Paulino Garcia Hospital in Cabanatuan City at past 1 p.m. The rest were taken to the Aurora provincial hospital in the capital town of Baler. The accident occurred after the D' Liner bus hurdled past a steep climb on the right lane while the tricycle emerged from a left corner and made a sudden turn to the left, according to Danilo Nieva, chief of the provincial disaster coordinating council.

Tonette Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Another cell site destroyed

BALANGA CITY—About 30 armed men believed to be New People's Army rebels burned the cell site of a telecommunications company in Barangay Ibis in Bagac town on Jan. 22. Bataan police director Supt. Hernando Zafra said the men also seized two handheld radios and two .38 cal. revolvers from three security guards of Globe's cell site. Zafra said the attackers were reportedly asking revolutionary taxes from Globe officials.

Greg Refraccion, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Wire thieves nabbed

STA. ROSA CITY—Policemen arrested two men for allegedly stealing electric and telephone wires owned by a contractor at Barangay Tagapo here. The suspects were identified as Eric D. Brillates, 27, electrician and a resident of Bacoor, Cavite; and Conrado B. Alzona, 30, helper, resident of Biñan, Laguna. Investigation showed that a security guard at a mall here alerted policemen after frisking the suspects and finding they held about 50 meters of electric wires.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Soldier, militiaman killed

COTABATO CITY—Communist rebels killed a soldier and a militiaman in Magpet, North Cotabato on Jan. 20 and took away their firearms. Magpet Mayor Efren Piñol said Army Sgt. Fernando Maglasang and militiaman Bebot Ayag were sitting at the roof of a passenger jeep for Kidapawan City when they were shot by four New People's Army (NPA) rebels, as the vehicle was passing by Barangay Binay at about 10:30 a.m. Piñol said the rebels, who were in the same vehicle, used handguns in killing the victims. He said the rebels fled with the victims' firearms—an M-16 and an M-14 rifle. The NPA has been very active in Magpet for the past months. Late last year, communist rebels also raided the Magpet police station and took several high-powered firearms from its armory.

Jeoffrey Maitem, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Marijuana plants uprooted

CEBU CITY—A military patrol resulted in the discovery of a marijuana plantation in a mountain village in Danao City, 33 km north of here. Danao city police chief Supt. Larson Dechino said police, soldiers and militiamen uprooted 2,557 marijuana plants after the Army's 78th Infantry Battalion informed them of it on Jan. 19. The plantation was found in a secluded area in Barangay Danasan, about 20 km from Danao City. No one was arrested as the people behind the cultivation of the marijuana plants fled, he said.

Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau

Rice hull stove promoted

CITY OF CALAPAN—Dr. Marius Agua, consultant to the Oriental Mindoro provincial government, has proposed the promotion of the rice hull stove as alternative to charcoal, which is a major reason for tree cutting. The stove could also ease the huge volume of rice hull waste, Agua said. The rice hull stove could also be an alternative to liquefied petroleum gas, the price of which has gone up.

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Forest protection gets ₱5M in grants

DAVAO CITY—FOREST conservation efforts in the country got a big boost following the release of a P5-million grant to at least 11 nongovernment organizations (NGOs) across the country, three of which are Mindanao-based.

The amount, granted by the Philippine Tropical Forest Conservation Foundation (PTFCF), would be used for small forest conservation projects under the program called debt-for-forest swap.

The program was the result of a bilateral agreement between the Philippines and the United States. The agreement, which resulted in the writing-off of about $5.5 million in Philippine debt, was in line with the US Tropical Forest Conservation Act of September 2002.

"The grants are coming in the wake of a decision by the (Department of Environment and Natural Resources) to cancel over 200 community-based forest management agreements for violations of the terms of agreements," said lawyer Paz Luna, PTFCF director.

The Mindanao-based organizations are: Center for Alternative Rural Technology, Institute of Primary Health Care of the Davao Medical School Foundation and the Institute for Small Farms and Industries of the Ateneo de Davao University.

Jeffrey M. Tupas, PDI Mindanao Bureau

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INQUIRER Mindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Fight on for MSU chancellorship

By Ryan D. Rosauro
Iligan City

PLACARD-BEARING FACULTY MEMBERS, STUDENTS and nonteaching personnel greeted eight candidates for chancellor of the Mindanao State University-Iligan Institute of Technology (MSU-IIT) in Iligan City when they were presented to the school constituency on Wednesday.

Two weeks ago, about 300 of them wore red clothes to symbolize their demand for the reappointment of the current chancellor, Prof. Marcelo Salazar even as the MSU Systems' Board of Regents (MSU-BOR) started its search for the next chief executive of the institute.

There have been talks that certain people, using their political connections, are craving to become Salazar's successor, and the situation could erupt into big trouble if mishandled.

"This is at the heart of our struggle to retain Chancellor Salazar," Dr. Rhodora Englis, president of the faculty union, said.

Salazar has been occupying the post in a holdover capacity since his five-year term expired on June 21, 2005.

Track record

As early as March last year, the faculty union has strongly endorsed his retention, citing his good track record in managing the institute. It cited the MSU Code of Governance, which stipulated that a chancellor of an autonomous campus "shall serve for a term of five years without prejudice to reappointment."

On May 9, 2005, Salazar wrote Dr. Carlito Puno, then chair of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd) and chair of the MSU-BOR, submitting himself for reappointment.

He stressed his "desire to finish ongoing projects to maintain [the] leadership of the institute in science and technology education in the Visayas and Mindanao. and to embark on more resource-generating research and development undertakings."

His reappointment, Salazar said, must be premised on the continuing support of the IIT community and an above-average evaluation of his performance by the MSU president.

In the institute's history, a precedent was set when Dr. Camar Umpa was retained as chancellor in the mid-1990s and later became MSU Systems president.

Emotional

The chancellorship has been an emotional issue for many faculty members.

Englis recalled their experience in the late 1980s when they opposed a BOR decision to install "an outsider" as chief executive. "We might have been caught flat-footed like before," Englis said as she disclosed the union's preparations as early as February last year.

Englis said the members were alarmed by the prospect of the IIT being led by someone who could have been appointed because of political backing and not merit.

"Having spent the best years of our life here," they want a say on who should be their leader, she said.

Dean Melvin Roscom of student affairs, who has been with the institute for 37 years, said the chancellorship "must be given to people who dedicated themselves to the IIT."

It "might fall into the hands of those whose interests may not be the IIT's interest," he said.

Roscom said "we have transcended the stage when we have our personal agendas" as basis for their current stand on the chancellorship issue.

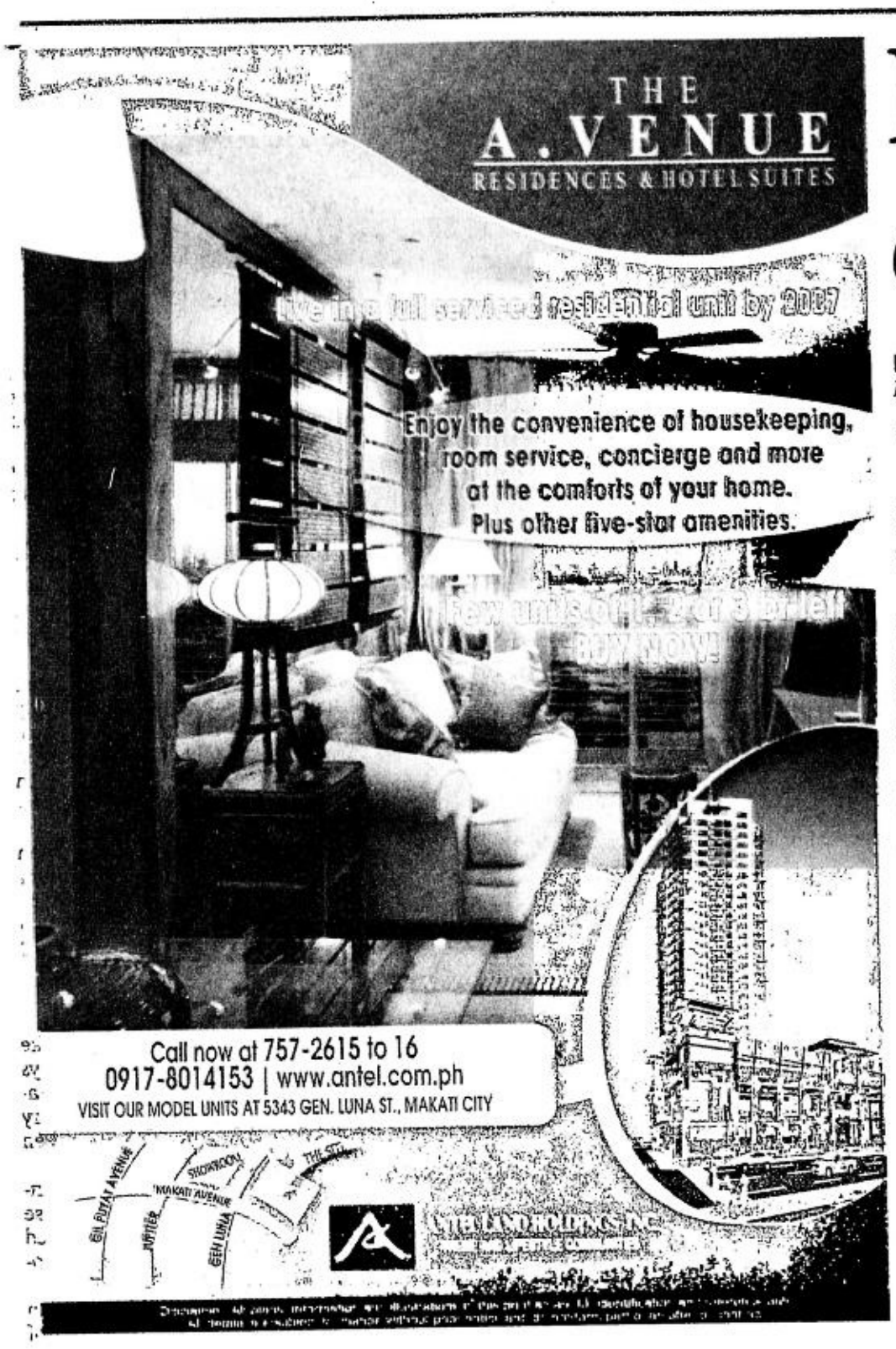
"I just want the IIT to continue growing and remain to be a reputable school," he added.

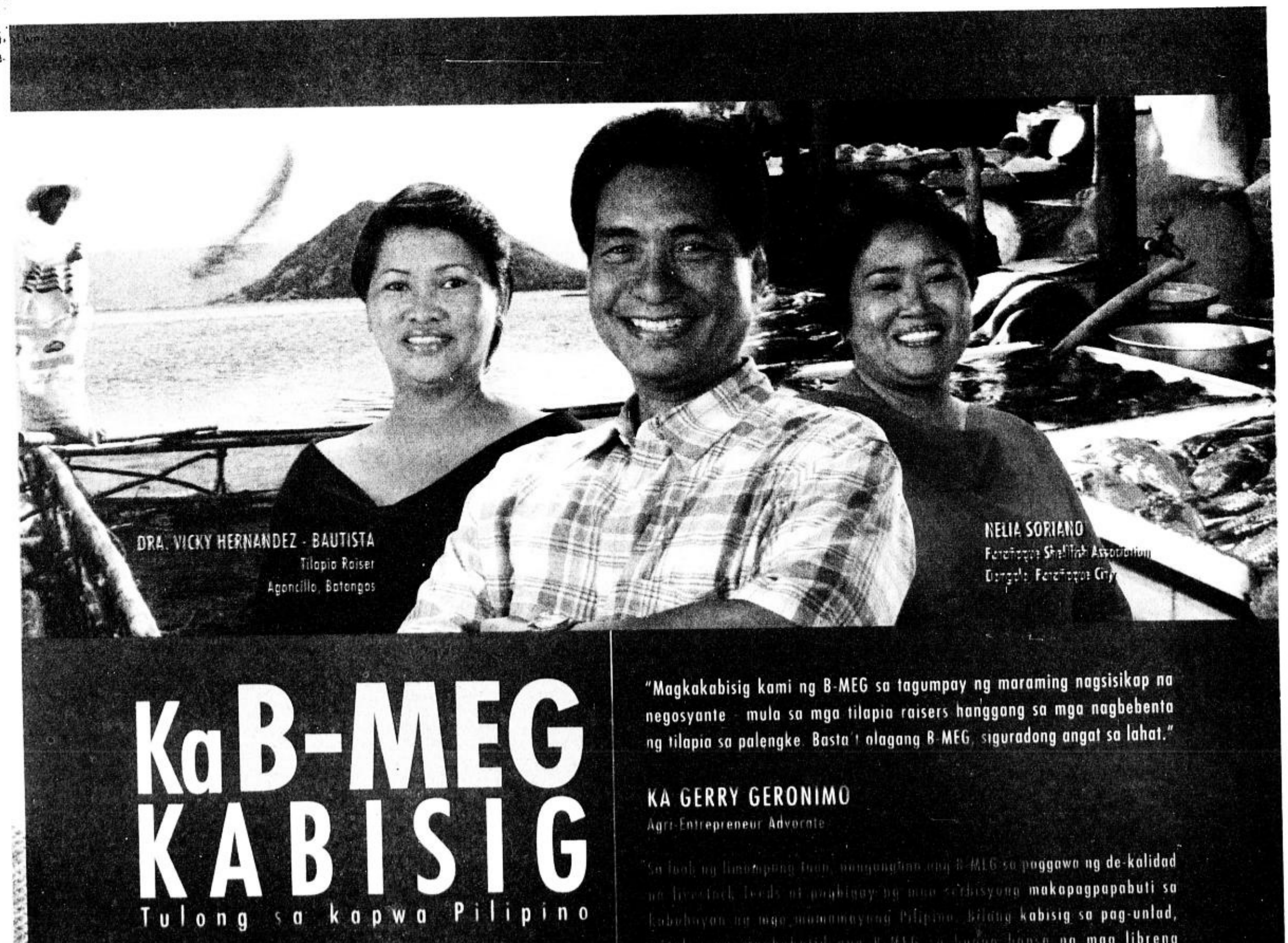
From the ranks

Salazar rose from the ranks, which could explain why his reappointment as chancellor is widely supported. A graduate of mechanical engineering, cum laude, of the the MSU in Marawi City in the early 1970s, he obtained a master's degree in management from the Asian Institute of Management.

The first "insider" chancellor, Salazar is credited for the achievements of the IIT as a center of excellence in four basic science disciplines—the only school outside Metro Manila with such stature, according to the faculty union.

The IIT is also a center for development in six engineering disciplines. From a technical institute in the late 1960s, it is now among the top engineering schools in the country, with a 90-percent passing average in the board exams.





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PLANAS with his super invention—the Khaos Super Turbo Charger. ERIK ARAZAS

From high school dropout to world-class inventor

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOR A MAN WHO NEVER FINISHED HIGH school, 68-year-old Pablo Planas has come a long way.

"I enrolled in high school. But I stopped after two months. I never enjoyed going to school," he told the INQUIRER.

His fingers, most of which are adorned with precious stones, and the awards he has received here and abroad, speak of what simple logic and a keen sense of smell have brought to this man.

Planas is the inventor of the Khaos Super Turbo Charger, a gas-saving device for cars which promises 15 to 50 percent savings in gasoline and a 35 percent increase in engine power.

Though some local motorists groups have called his invention a "fraud," he is undaunted.

"The (increase in gasoline prices) was the best thing that ever happened to our device. We started getting many orders, even from foreign countries," Planas said.

The young Planas worked as a jeepney driver in San Juan until he managed to buy his own passenger jeeps in his early 20s.

TALES OF THE CITY

Born out of irritation

His invention was to be born just years later, out of a simple irritation: the smoke emitted by his passenger jeep was offensive to his nostrils.

Using his basic knowledge of automotive and years of enduring the stench, Planas theorized that the foul odor could have come from unburned fuel.

Not enough air was going into the engine, leaving some fuel unburned, turning the unburned fuel into pollutants, emitting the annoying odor, he explained.

In 1973, Planas came up with a device to allow the right amount of air into the engine to ensure complete combustion.

"The stench of unburned fuel was gone," he recalled after testing the device on his own jeep. He also noticed a welcome side effect: he was saving on gasoline.

Planas got his first award for his invention the following year after gathering enough testimonials to present it before President Ferdinand Marcos.

But because gasoline cost only a few centavos during the Martial Law years, it did not get enough attention.

In the next three decades, he managed to sell only 500 units of his device. But Planas said he was not discouraged.

He claimed to have turned down numerous million-dollar offers for his invention from companies abroad.

"I told them no amount of money would change my mind. Our country would lose much more if I sell the device," Planas said.

His luck started to change in 2003, when gasoline prices started to go up.

Best device invented

His invention was chosen as the Outstanding Invention in 2003, an award which was presented by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

With the help of businessman Jerry Acuzar who agreed to be his partner, Planas said he built a building for the manufacture of his device, which he renamed as the Khaos Super Turbo Charger after the Greek goddess of air.

Since then, he has sold thousands of his invention, which costs P6,500 each.

But his happiness is not complete yet. There is the sad reality that there are still hundreds of Filipino inventors, whose intelligence and dreams have been ignored, if not wasted, by the lack of government support.

"The government should support our inventors," Planas said.

Youthful offenders given second chance

By DJ Yap

YOUNGSTERS IN TROUBLE WITH the law do not often get another chance but at the Molave Youth Home, they get a second, even a third chance.

Molave is a special detention center in Quezon City for minors.

When 16-year-old Chester entered the youth center in 1997 on robbery charges, he thought his life was over. Months later, he realized it was actually just beginning.

All he needed was a little guidance and attention—something he found in abundance at Molave.

Like the sturdy tree it was named after, the jail facility enabled Chester to turn his life around. When he was released on recognizance after four months, he spent the next year studying computer technology and doing odd jobs on the side.

Today, he works as a computer technician for an Internet company. He is also happily married, with two children.

Chester, however, has not forgotten those who had set him on the right path. Every now and then, he visits Molave, but this time as a volunteer—to tell the inmates that they, too, can turn their lives around.

Shelter for youthful offenders

Established in 1973, Molave is a facility that provides temporary custody and care to offenders aged between 9 and 17, while they undergo trial for crimes ranging from petty theft to murder.

Last year, the facility was named one of the 10 recipients of the Gawad Galing Pook awards for its pioneering work in the rehabilitation of youth offenders, as well as their reintegration to society.

Though technically a jail secured by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology, Molave is recognized by the Quezon City government more as a social service institution than a criminal detention facility.

For this reason, Molave is under the administration of the city's Social Services Development Department (SSDD).

Inmates not prisoners

"At Molave, we don't want the inmates to feel that they are prisoners, but children on their way to rehabilitation," Mayor Feliciano Belmonte Jr. said.

At present, Molave houses 163 youth offenders, of whom 10 are girls, according to Maribel Cayco, the city's chief of residential and rehabilitation division.

Most of the inmates belong to low-income and broken families.

Crimes against property, such as theft and robbery, top the list of their offenses.

Located at the second floor of the SSDD building just behind City Hall, the youth home has six dormitories with double-deck beds, a mess hall and kitchen, and a newly-constructed sunning facility with a basketball court, among other amenities.

The youngsters start each day early, waking up at 5 a.m. followed by breakfast.

Then at 7 a.m., under the supervision of the social workers, they conduct a therapeutic session to talk about each other's good and bad deeds the day before.

"This is the therapeutic community modality, a self-help discussion activity with a positive approach to a child's actions," Cayco said.

After the hour-long session, the youngsters divide themselves into groups for a variety of activities. Some of them attend classes, taught by instructors from the Department of Education, on Math, English and Science.

Others are taught vocational lessons, such as handicraft making and dressmaking.

Lunch is prepared by the inmates themselves. In fact, they do most of the housekeeping chores in the youth center. They are divided into groups for "laundry," "housekeeping" and "kitchen" duties, among others.

Classes resume at 1 p.m. At 3 p.m., the inmates are visited by their family and friends. At Molave, parents are encouraged to take an active role in the rearing of their children through programs like the Parent Effectiveness Seminar.

Visitation ends at 5 p.m., upon which the youngsters begin dinner preparations. After eating, they assemble in the living room to watch television. Then, its lights out at 10 p.m.

Positive feedback

Feedback from organizations like the National Training School for Boys and the Albert Schweitzer Association of the Philippines have been very positive, proof that Molave has been doing something right, Cayco said.

Molave's wards "can be easily identified from other detainees because they are disciplined, well-behaved and courteous," according to the coordinating agencies.

Molave's success over the years can also be gauged by the hundreds of youngsters it has helped.

Aside from helping the inmates to realize that their lives aren't necessarily over when they commit a mistake, it has allowed them to turn a new leaf and to grow up strong and upright like the sturdy molave tree.

METROBRIEFS

Parañaque to give Pacquiao hero's welcome

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

ANOTHER hero's welcome awaits boxing champ Manny Pacquiao next week, courtesy of the Parañaque City government. "We'd like our welcome to be more festive and grand," Nelson Lacambra, Mayor Florencio Bernabe's spokesperson, told the INQUIRER. Like Manila, the city has made Pacquiao an adopted son through Resolution No. 05-024 approved on April 5, 2005. Before a grand party to honor the boxing champ's victory over his Mexican rival, Eric Morales, Pacquiao will be paraded all over the city, passing through Baclaran, Barangays Tambo, San Dionisio, Sucat, San Isidro, San Antonio, Don Bosco and Moonwalk. The motorcade will culminate at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater, where a short program has been prepared for the boxing idol. "The city of Parañaque congratulates Manny Pacquiao on his recent victory which has given not only this city, but the entire country, something to be proud of," Bernabe said in a statement. He also reaffirmed the city's support for Pacquiao in his future matches as "he remains an icon of strength, courage, discipline and deep faith in God to Parañaque residents, especially the youth." *Jocelyn R. Uy*

NBI rescues girls from QC factory

AGENTS of the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) rescued 12 girls, mostly minors, who were allegedly maltreated and subjected to inhuman conditions in a garments factory at Quezon City over the weekend. Arrested were suspects Bing Chua and Juanito Brital, while two others, Alda Chua and Johnny Chua, remain at large. The case stemmed from the complaint of a 17-year-old girl from Agusan del Sur who accused the suspects of maltreatment. The girl said she managed to escape from the factory by climbing to the roof and onto a neighbor's house. She then sought help from the NBI in rescuing the other girls, including her cousins, whom she left behind at the Bumble Bee Garments factory in Barangay Paltok, Quezon City. The girls claimed the suspects made them work from 3:30 a.m. until 9 p.m. They added that they were not allowed to leave the factory premises and were only paid P2,000 a month. Charges for violation of Republic Act (RA) 7610 (Anti-Child Abuse Law), RA 9238 (Anti-Human Trafficking Act of 2003) and RA 9231 (Anti-Child Labor Law) were being readied against the suspects. *Tina G. Santos*

Ex-convict goes back to jail

A MAN who was an ex-convict landed anew in jail after he was caught stealing a cellular phone on Thursday in Makati City. The suspect, identified as Gilbert Orillosa, 35, was arrested after attempting to sneak out Ofemia Cadag's cell phone (Nokia 7250) from her office at Unitel Production in Barangay Sta. Cruz. Barangay chair Victor Del Prado said the office's security guard allowed the suspect into the building to look for buyers for his handicraft products. Ironically, Orillosa was carrying a letter from the New Bilibid Prisons which described him as an ex-convict "of good moral character" and authorized him to sell his products. But while he was in the middle of a sales pitch to Cadag, she caught him stealing her cell phone and immediately called Jaime de Guzman, a barangay watchman patrolling the area during that time. The suspect initially denied the accusation, but De Guzman found the stolen cell phone in his back pocket. Orillosa was charged with qualified theft. *Jocelyn R. Uy*

Things You Need to Know About Bird Flu

The bird flu virus currently sweeping across Asia has already caused much scare in both poultry industry and the consuming public. The virus has swept through poultry populations in East and Southeast Asia. Tens of millions of chickens have either died or been slaughtered.

In Southeast Asia, only Philippines, Brunei and Singapore remain free from bird flu virus. A number of people have died in China, Thailand and Vietnam because of this virus. Even Indonesia, North Korea, Cambodia, Hong Kong and Laos are already affected. Japan, Malaysia and South Korea have been hit by the virus but were able to control the outbreak.

But how deadly is the bird flu virus and where did it come from? What should we do to avoid the spread of this disease?

Bird Flu or Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza is caused by Avian Influenza Type A virus and is widespread among wild birds particularly wild geese, ducks and swans. Migratory birds are a significant source of infection especially in countries under major flyways.

With the Philippines falling under the East Asian flyway, the threat of infection exists. Some of the places where migratory birds make a regular "stopover" include Manila Bay coastal areas, Olango Island in Cebu, Candaba Swamps in Pampanga, Batanes Island, Buguey Island in Cagayan Valley and the coastal wetlands in Mindanao.

Large amounts of the virus are excreted in bird droppings, nasal secretions and aerosol droplets. Influenza virus can be transmitted by direct contact between infected and susceptible birds or via indirect contact through contaminated clothing, footwear, feeders, farm equipments, etc.

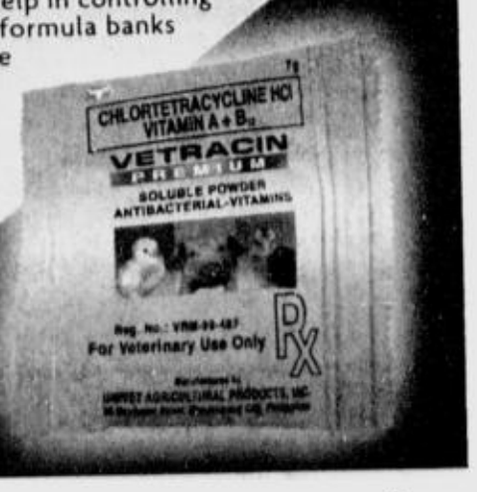
Experts agree that the problem can be minimized if only strict biosecurity is implemented:

1. Keep stray animals, birds and other fowls out of poultry houses. For outdoor raised poultry, no domestic ducks and free-range poultry must have access to migratory birds areas, especially wetlands.
2. Control personnel movement within and around the farm. Limit visitors to farms particularly those who have come from AI-affected countries.
3. Disinfect materials, people and equipment entering the farm. Set up biosecurity control points in the farm: gates, shower rooms, footbaths, fumigation boxes.

When disinfecting, choose a disinfectant that has superior wetting and penetrating properties to allow better contact between the virus and disinfectant. *Microban* combines the power of four disinfectants: 2 aldehydes, quaternary ammonium compound and glyoxal to bring about thorough disinfection. Microban has been proven to be effective against avian influenza and other kinds of virus, bacteria and fungi. To achieve best results, there must be thorough cleaning of the poultry house prior to disinfection of Microban.

Aside from stringent biosecurity measures, boosting the bird's immune system with proper supplements like Vitamin A and B12 would also help in controlling the spread of the disease. Vetracin Premium's triple defense formula banks on the high doses of Vitamin A and B12 to strengthen the body's natural defense against infections, supported by a broad spectrum antibiotics-chlortetracycline. With its powerful formula, Vetracin Premium would help boost the birds' immune system and reduce their chances of having infections.

While the Philippines is so far free from Bird Flu, this is no time to be complacent. Supplement your chickens or gamefowls with high doses of Vitamin A and B12 and implement strict biosecurity measures. While we still have time, we should be prepared for the possible bird flu pandemic the World Health Organization is now warning us about.



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THE FUTURE of 5-year-old Emmanuel Jr. and 4-year-old Michael Stephen looks bright with their father Manny Pacquiao a multimillionaire and still getting richer. ROGER MARGALLO

Pacman the greatest, says Freddie Roach

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA—HE DID not promise another classic win to lift the Filipino people again but trainer Freddie Roach yesterday said greater things are in store for Manny Pacquiao.

"He's still young, very dedicated, he's great but will be even greater," said Roach, the 2003 Trainer of the Year who has handled the likes of Mike Tyson and James Toney in a colorful cornering career that saw him match wits with the world's best trainers.

"Manny Pacquiao? That performance of his was the best of my life, my favorite win among all my fighters."

Would he say Pacquiao was a masterpiece?

"Yeah, he fought a perfect fight. We had a good game plan, we stuck to it."

Of course, it was not smooth sailing all the way against the crafty, vastly experienced Erik Morales in Las Vegas last Saturday.

Pacquiao did win the first two rounds but encountered turbulence after Morales settled down and trapped the Filipino warrior in a technical battle starting the third round.

Using superior power, freshly acquired skills, Pacquiao broke barriers and started to take over in the sixth round, when he nearly succeeded in flooring Morales, before dominating his foe with blazing combinations and sharp ringmanship en route to a 10th round stoppage.

ROACH

Actually, Roach said, Pacquiao was behind before he decided to push the fight to a more physical level.

"After five rounds, maybe we were behind a little bit, but the plan was working to get Morales tired, wear him down with body shots, break him down, it was just a beautiful fight," Roach explained.

With the great victory, Roach said there's no doubt that practically all kids in Manila want to be a Manny Pacquiao.

"Your country is on top of the world now and there other kids going up, Boom Boom Bautista, Z Gorres and a couple of other kids training with me here," Roach said.

An even greater boost to boxing in the Philippines is the planned staging of Pacquiao's next fight in Manila which, Roach said, should materialize "before the end of April, before the rainy season."

"I'll see you soon, because I believe we will be fighting in Manila because HBO wants to come to Manila," Roach told the INQUIRER.

The eminent trainer added something must be done to help kids, inspired by Pacquiao, to realize their dreams.

Pacquiao to earn ₱318M from PPV

By Salven L. Lagumbay, *Contributor*

MANNY PACQUIAO IS A MILLIONAIRE MANY times over, but this latest news will further fatten his bank account into stratospheric dimensions.

According to boxing website Boxingtalk which interviewed PPV guru Mark Taffet, the latest Pacquiao-Morales rematch generated some 350,000 pay-per-view buys, an improvement of 10,000 buys from their first encounter.

At the rate of $44.95 per household who took the pay-per-view route, the amount generated by the fight should total close to $16 million, which will go to Morales, Pacquiao, the promoters and HBO.

Pacquiao, according to reports, is assured of 40 percent take of the pay-per-view income, thereby putting his share at a whopping $6 million (P318 million) at today's exchange rate.

There was no mention of how much of Pacquiao's pay-per-view shares will go to his management team.

With another marquee fight looming, possibly against Marco Antonio Barrera within this year, it is likely that Pacquiao, who once sold bread for a living, will become the first-ever billionaire athlete in the history of Philippine sports.

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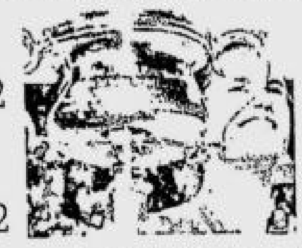
■ Finally, it's Amelie /A22
■ Jobe leads Buick golf /A22



Olympics bronze medalist Serantes ailing, needs help

By Dennis U. Eroa
Libre sports editor

NOW A SHADOW OF HIS OLD DEADly self, light flyweight boxer Leopoldo Serantes, who won a bronze medal in the 1988 Seoul Olympics, is knocking at the door of the Philippine Sports Commission again to help him and his family survive the hard times.

Serantes, whose bronze medal in Seoul snapped a 24-year medal-drought for the Philippines in the Olympics, is presently confined at the Victoriano Luna General Hospital suffering from lung abscess and pulmonary disease.

"Only the good graces of Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines Manny Lopez and his father former chair of the Philippine Sports Commission Mel are helping us survive," Divina, Serantes' wife, said in an exclusive interview recently at the ABAP office inside the PSC building in Vito Cruz, Manila.

The INQUIRER, however, learned that the PSC has already given financial assistance to Serantes several times the last two years.

"We wish him (Serantes) well on his road to recovery. Let me stress that the PSC has already given his family financial help. This, however, doesn't mean that we will stop helping Serantes. The PSC is willing to help," PSC executive director Guillermo Iroy told the INQUIRER.

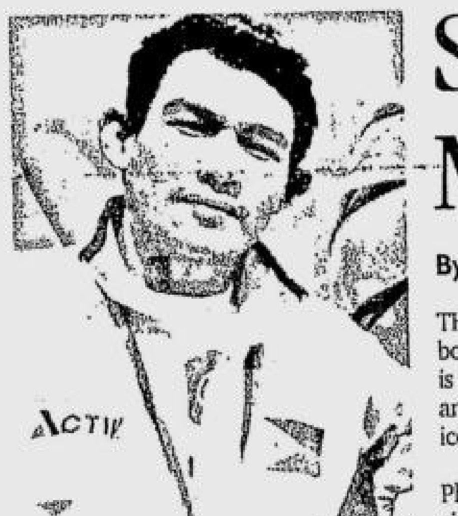
Iroy added that Bacolod Rep. Monico Puentevalla had also endorsed Serantes' plea for help.

The 43-year-old Serantes remains a member of the Philippine Army but Divina, with whom he has seven children, said his salary, eaten up by various loans, isn't enough to tide them over.

Following an asthma attack which nearly cost his life last November at their residence in Paliparan, Cavite City, Serantes was rushed to the hospital where he remains confined under the care of Captain Noel Gaurano of the AFP Medical Center.

Serantes' bronze was the first boxing medal for the country since the silver of Anthony Villanueva in 1964 in Tokyo. The feat also ushered in the era of RP light flyweights in the Olympics.

Roel Velasco also won another bronze in the same division in the 1992 Barcelona Olympics before Mansueto "Onyok" duplicated Villanueva's feat in the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.



SERANTES wears his 1988 Olympic bronze medal. ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

Manny Lopez visited Serantes at his ward a day before Christmas Eve and expressed confidence that the former toast of Philippine sports will be able to recover.

"He's getting stronger. I think he can now start an easy one-round sparring," said Lopez. "He wanted to go home but it's better for him to recuperate at the V. Luna."

Serantes' case recalls the plight of weightlifter Jaime Sebastian, who was once known as Southeast Asia's strongest man. Ravaged by a series of strokes, Sebastian, who was with the Air Force, is now bedridden and is asking for dole-outs from the PSC and friends.

Stroke of luck propels Manny's rise—Lopez

By Norman Bordadora

THE HEAD OF THE COUNTRY'S AMATEUR boxing association yesterday said the Philippines is blessed with countless boxers with the same amount of skills, grit and fire as world boxing icon Manny Pacquiao.

Still, Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines president Manny Lopez said a considerable amount of luck remains one of the factors that will determine a Filipino pugilist's chances at becoming the next world champ.

"There's only one Manny Pacquiao," Lopez told reporters at the weekly Kapihan sa Sulo yesterday. "We go around the country and we see many boxers with the same skills and determination as Manny Pacquiao.

"Now, we ask ourselves, 'why do we only have one Manny Pacquiao?' I'd say luck has something to do with it," Lopez said.

While Lopez stressed that Pacquiao's recent disposal of Mexican Erik Morales was the result of practice and preparation, he said that the pride of General Santos City needed a stroke of luck to propel his international career against a Thai champion in Thailand.

"It was in Thailand when he fought Thai champion Chachai for his first world title," Lopez said. "In the middle of the fight, all the judges had (the Thai) ahead. Then Manny managed to knock out his opponent with just one punch."

Lopez said that another ingredient in coming up with another Filipino world boxing champion in the caliber of Pacquiao is an effective and well-meaning manager.

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ARANETA COLISEUM 2006 WORLD SLASHER CUP
4 ENTRIES COP CHAMPIONSHIP HONORS

Two homegrown Filipino entries, namely, Partners Balani Winslet of Dicky Lim, Jose Paragas and Pablo Hufano and King Cobra of Philip Chiongbian shared championship honors with two other entries beefed-up by U.S. cockers namely Rafly Blackwater WRV of Nene Abello, Willy Villarica and Cris Nesmith of Alabama and JOF Patam Young Guns U.S.A of Joel Fernando and expat Ferdie Patam of California ended in dead heat at the end of the 3-day 2006 World Slasher Cup (WSC) Invitational 8-Cock Derby held January 17, 19 and 21 at the Araneta Coliseum with similar scores of 7 points

The 4 entries will share the prize money along with a brand new 2006 Nissan Frontier Titanium 3 pickup which they will raffle off among themselves.

Billed as the biggest cockfighting event in the world, the WSC was presented by Pizza Hut and co-sponsored by Thunderbird Power Feeds.

The bi-annual tournament drew a banner number of 104 entries including foreign participants from the U.S.A., Australia, Canada and Japan.

The second leg of the cockfest is scheduled this coming June 13, 15 and 17 also at the Araneta Coliseum.

PLATINUM MULTI-GRAIN CONDITIONER BEXAN XP

2006 BOW! WOW! WOW!
Kung Hei Fat Choi
CELEBRATE CHINESE NEW YEAR WITH A BLOW-OUT!
VISIT OUR BRANCHES NOW FOR A HEALTHY AND NATURAL WAY TO LIVE LIFE.
There's always an ELOV near you!
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Robinsons Dasmariñas • Robinsons Imus • Robinsons Pioneer • Robinsons Ermita • Robinsons Sta. Rosa • Robinsons Metro East • Robinsons Lipa • Robinsons Town Mall Los Baños • Market! Market! • SM City San Lazaro • SM City Sta. Mesa • SM City Fairview • SM City Bicutan • SM City Dasmariñas • SM City Molino • SM City Batangas • SM City Marilao • SM Valenzuela • SM Southmall Las Piñas • Walter Mart Carmona • Walter Mart Gen. Trias • Walter Mart Sta. Rosa • Walter Mart Gapan • Walter Mart Calamba • Festival Mall • NE Pacific Mall • Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall

Puentevella seeks review of EO 441

By Marc Anthony Reyes

IF IT AIN'T BROKE, WHY FIX IT?

In essence, this was the reaction of Rep. Monico Puentevella, erstwhile Philippine Sports Commissioner and now vice president of the Philippine Olympic Committee, to the Executive Order putting the PSC under the wings of the Department of Health.

By Monday, Puentevella promised to bring the matter up to President Macapagal-Arroyo for consideration and, in behalf of the House of Representatives, put the controversial EO 441 under review.

"This executive order will have to be reviewed," said Puentevella, lamenting the string of woes faced by the agency.

If Malacañang is really bent on putting the PSC under a department, Puentevella said it should be under the Department of Education, which supervised RP sports for many years before Republic Act 6847 creating the sports commission was enacted in 1990.

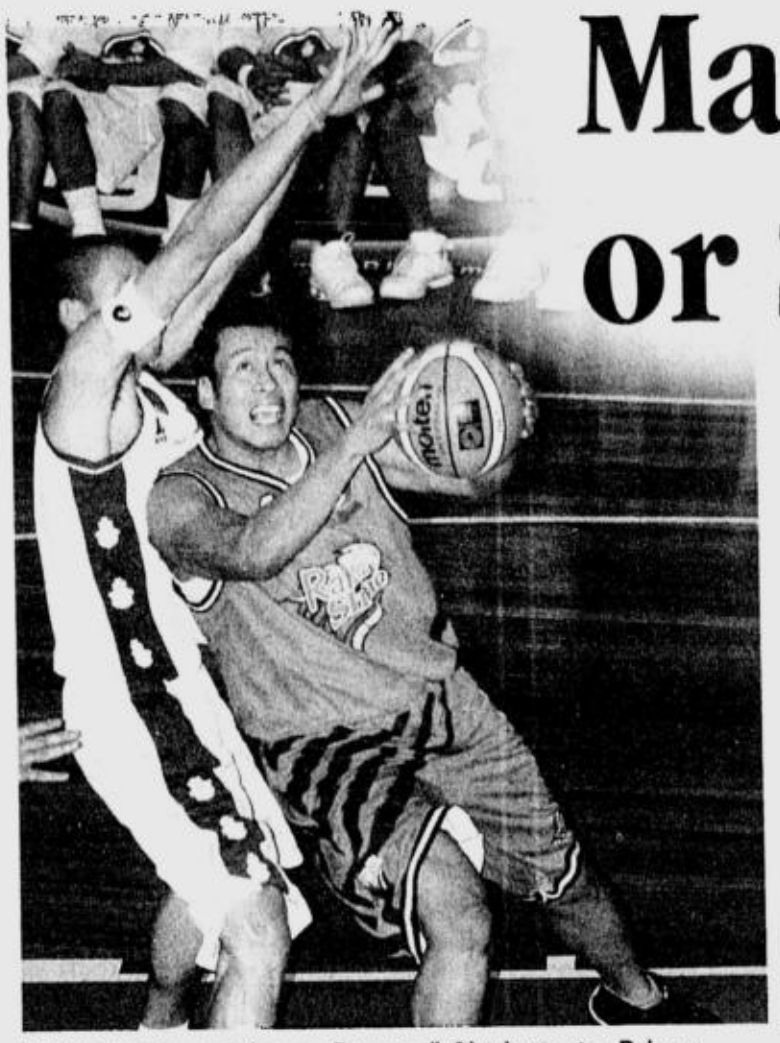
"Congress will make a request to PGMA Monday to reconsider this order and preferably place the PSC under the DepEd due to the importance of grassroots program, which is the Palarong Pambansa," said the Bacolod solon.

Already, the EO has sparked outrage not only from the PSC board, but also from the national sports associations which rued the confusion it would create.

The EO, they said, came at a time when everything was doing well for Philippine sports right after the country won the 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

PSC chair Butch Ramirez last Friday said he is willing to step down if the EO pushes through and the DOH takes over the PSC.

"PSC has been doing well," said Puentevella, who served as PSC commissioner for seven years. "This is one factor why we won the SEA Games for the first time in history. As the saying goes, if it ain't broke why fix it."



HARBOUR Centre's Jerome Paterno (left) tries to stop Rain or Shine's Marvin Ortiguera in Game 2 yesterday. RYAN LIM

Magnolia vs Rain or Shine for title

GAME THURSDAY (*San Andres Gym*)
2 p.m.—Granny Goose vs Harbour Centre (knockout for 3rd)
4 p.m.—Rain or Shine vs Magnolia (Game 1-Finals)

By Jasmine W. Payo

IT TOOK A LATE LIFT FROM JEFF CHAN and two overtime periods before Magnolia Ice Cream subdued the resilient Granny Goose Tortillos, 92-86, and make it to the finals of the PBL Heroes Cup yesterday at the San Andres Gym.

The Wizards swept the semifinal series against the Tortillos and will dispute the title against Rain or Shine, which downed Harbour Centre, 69-59, for the other finals slot.

Chan fired 20 markers, including five of the Wizards' 11 points in the second extra period to key the victory.

"We're blessed to have him in the team," said Wizards coach Koy Banal of his veteran swingman. "But it's not just Chan, (RJ) Rizada, (Arwind) Santos or (Kelly) Williams. Anybody can step up and that's what I like about this team."

Mark Isip paced the Wizards with 21 markers, while Santos contributed 16 points, 10 rebounds and three blocks.

Junjun Cabatu led Rain or Shine's balanced charge with 11 points. But it was Eugene Tan who nailed a key triple in the last 41.2 seconds to lift the Elasto Painters, 64-59, after the Portmasters moved within a basket, 61-59.

Painters coach Caloy Garcia also commended his second stringers.

The scores:

First Game

MAGNOLIA 92—Isip 21, Chan 20, Santos 16, Valenzuela 11, Williams 7, Misolas 7, Angeles 4, Jones 4, Bombeo 2, Rizada 0, Co 0.

GRANNY GOOSE 86—Lanete 17, Latonio 14, Ibanes 12, David 10, Alfad 6, Concha 6, Almeda 5, Grijaldo 4, Ferrer 4, Santos 4, Quinahan 0, Doruelo 0, Saladaga 0.

Quarters: 15-16, 33-31, 51-50, 71-71, 81-81 (10T), 92-86 (20T)

Second Game

RAIN OR SHINE 69—Cabatu 11, Sagad 10, Malabanan 10, Sta. Maria 10, Tan 9, Ortiguerra 9, Enrile 8, Reyes 2, Tangkay 0, Aljamal 0, Javier 0, Orbeta 0.

HARBOUR CENTRE 59—Paterno 10, Mesina 10, Tenorio 7, Yeo 7, Reyes 7,Raymundo 6, Arellano 4, Saguindel 3, Luanzon 3, Dy 2, Menor 0, Alonzo 0, Dela Pena 0.

Quarters: 18-21, 30-32, 46-45, 69-59

Juvic welcome to join Konica Minolta tilt

PAGUNSAN

THE KONICA MINOLTA NATIONAL PRO-AM will welcome the participation of rookie pro Juvic Pagunsan, the recent SEA Games golf individual titlist.

"We hope he (Pagunsan) will join us," said lawyer Bert Bravo, whose U-Bix Corp. revived the tilt in 2001 after a hiatus of six years. "Juvic has always been a part of our event."

As an amateur, Juvic has partnered with his father, Juanito, from 2001 to 2005 in the tournament that stakes a record P1.7 million through Konica Minolta Corp. of Japan.

The Pagunsans' best finish was second, behind Noli Kempis and Erwin Vinluan, in 2001 in the event to be held at Riviera's Langer on Feb. 7-11.

Juanito said he would still join the tournament chaired by Comm. Danny Pizarro (ret.), with Bravo and National Golf Association of the Philippines president Benny Gopez as executive committee chairmen.

Two Toyota Innova from Toyota Motor Philippines will be staked as hole-in-one prizes in the tournament backed by Grappa's Restaurant, Pivo Praha and S-Yard and supported by Toyota Motors Phils., Gopez Corp., Mizuno Master Sports, BMG Solar, DHL, WWWExpress, First Gent Foundation, SMC, Pagcor, Rowell, PSC, Epson, Riso, Brother, Casio, Okamura, ServiceMaster, Pacsports, Metrobank, PCIBank, Landbank, UCPB, BPI, Equitable Bank, Union Bank, Air21, Airlift Asian Inc., Wallem Shipping, Ayala Land Sales and Industrial Waste Systems Inc. through Gerry Handog.

Registration centers are at NGAP tels. 525-6987 or 524-5160 or e-mail at ngapgolf@hotmail.com and website www.ngap.net or Riviera at (046) 414-2868/2837.

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
NATIONAL HOUSING AUTHORITY

NOTICE OF DISPOSITION

The National Housing Authority is inviting ***Offers to Purchase / Lease*** on an ***"As Is – Where Is"*** basis, the following properties

I. FIRST OFFERING

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	BASE PRICE
LEASE			
001	343.06 commercial lot & bldg. with a floor area of 114 sq.m.	Phase II-A Karangalan Village Project Pasig City	PhP 11,823/mo.
002	863.57 sq.m. commercial lot	Block 140, Phase II, Karangalan Village Project, Pasig City	PhP 62.50 / sq.m. / mo. or PhP 53,973.12
SALE			
003	541 sq.m. commercial lot, with structure, with title	Block 9, Maharlika Village Project, Taguig	PhP 8,000 / sq.m. (lot) PhP 6,784.30 (structure)
004-006	3 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 299 sq.m. to 306 sq.m. with technical descriptions	Phase X, Pckg. 6, Block 4 Bagong Silang Resettlement Caloocan City	PhP 2,580 / sq.m. to PhP 2,700 / sq.m.

II. SECOND OFFERING

SALE			
007-020	14 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 50 to 53 sq.m. With titles	Phase IV, Towerville, Resettlement Project, San Jose Del Monte City	PhP 2,475 / sq.m. to PhP 2,500 / sq.m.
021-024	4 commercial lots, lot areas ranging 74 to 295 sq.m. With technical descriptions	Mayon Vista Hills Subd., Tuburan, Ligao City, Albay	PhP 1,600 / sq.m. to PhP 1,785 / sq.m.
III	A. NEGOTIATED SALE		
025-037	13 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 192 to 437 sq.m. With titles	Phase III-E, Bagong Nayon, II Antipolo	PhP 3,500 / sq.m.
040	1,113 sq.m. commercial lot With title	Towerville Resettlement Project, San Jose Del Monte City	PhP 3,000 / sq.m. or 3,339,000.00
041-051	11 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 240 to 978 sq.m. With titles	Towerville Resettlement Project, San Jose Del Monte City	PhP 3,000 / sq.m. PhP 3,250 / sq.m.
052-075	24 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 240 to 324 sq.m. With titles.	Mayon Vista Hills Subd. Brgy. Tuburan Ligao, Albay	PhP 1,540 / sq.m. PhP 1,700 / sq.m.
	B. NEGOTIATED SALE OR LEASE		
076-274	199 commercial lots, lot areas ranging from 170 to 287 sq.m. With titles	Pampanga Hsg. Project, Pandacaqui, Telepayong Mexico, Arayat	Sale : PhP 1,600 / sq.m. to PhP 1,800 / sq.m. Lease : PhP 6.67 to Php 7.50 / sq.m. / mo.
	C. DEVELOPMENT THROUGH JOINT VENTURE/NEGOTIATED SALE, LEASE OR LEASE WITH OPTION TO PURCHASE		
275	5,105 sq.m. commercial lot. With title	Lapu-lapu Avenue Cor. Babanse and Ayungin Sts., Phase I, Dagat-dagatan Development Project	Sale : PhP 10,200 / sq.m. or PhP 52,071,000.00 Lease : PhP 42.50 / sq.m./mo. or PhP 216,962.50 / mo.

TERMS:

For properties for lease, a minimum of two (2) months deposit and one (1) month advance shall be tendered on the date of bidding. Lease period shall be for a maximum of fifteen (15) years renewable for another five (5) years at the option of NHA. A Five Percent (5%) escalation rate shall be imposed beginning on the 2nd year of lease and every year thereafter.

A minimum of Ten Percent (10%) deposit shall be tendered on the date of bidding for properties for sale through public bidding and the time of submission of Letter of Intent for negotiated sale; Options for repayment period are ***Cash, Modified Cash*** (Six (6) equal installments without interest) or ***Installment*** for a maximum period of ***Ten (10) years*** with graduated interest rates.

The Letter of Intent for negotiated sale/lease/lease with option to purchase and joint venture may be submitted at the respective Project Offices on the following working day from first publication of this Notice of Disposition.

Bidding Materials can be secured for a non-refundable fee of PhP 200.00 from the ***Commercial / Industrial Bids & Awards Committee (COINBAC) c/o the Commercial & Industrial Estates Department (CIED)***, Second Floor, NHA Main Bldg., Elliptical Road, Quezon City. Bidding materials can also be secured from the tf. Project Offices:

For further inquiry, please contact Ms. Evelyn V. Ramos/Nen A. Subido at the following Tel. Nos. of CIED: (02) 922-3002, (02) 928-4561 local 263 & 264.

SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC BIDDING		KARANGALAN / BAGONG SILANG / TOWERVILLE MAHARLIKA, TAGUIG	ALBAY
A.	*Submission of Pre-Qualification Requirements*	Feb. 1 to 8, 2006 Office Hours NHA Main Office, Elliptical Rd., Diliman, Quezon City	Feb. 13 to 22, 2006, Office Hours NHA Ligao, Project Office
B.	*Pre-Bid Conference*	Feb. 6, 2006, 10:00 a.m. Operations Center, 3rd Flr., NHA Main office	Feb. 22, 2006, 10:00 a.m. NHA Ligao, Project Office
C.	*Submission of Sealed Bids*	Feb. 10, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 12 noon, Operations Center	Feb. 24, 2006, 9:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. NHA Ligao, Project Office
D.	*Opening of Sealed Bids*	Feb. 10, 2006, 1:30 p.m. Operations Center	Feb. 24, 2006, 10:30 a.m. NHA Ligao, Project Office

The AUTHORITY reserves the right to *reject* any or all offers or any part thereof or to waive any required formalities and accept offers most advantageous to the interest of NHA.

(Sgd.) FEDERICO A. LAXA
General Manager

(PDI – January 29 & February 4, 2006)

LSGH alumni hosting golfest

THE LA SALLE Green Hills Alumni Association will be hosting the 14th edition of the "Drive for a Cause" Benefit Golf Tournament tomorrow at the Forest Hills Golf and Country Club along Marcos Highway in Antipolo. Tournament chair Peng Perez de Tagle announced that this annual event raises funds for the benefit of the La Salle Green Hills Adult Night High School. Tournament fee is P2,500 (P1,500 for Forest Hills members) which includes green fee, meals and giveaways. Tee off is 7-10 a.m. Awards ceremony will be held during the La Salle Green Hills Alumni Homecoming on Feb. 4. Sponsors include : PLDT Business Solutions, Smart Communications, American Eye Center, Philippine Daily Inquirer, Forest Hills Golf & Country Club, Columbian Motors Corp. (Kia Motors), Rufino Group of Companies, Castillo Laman Tan Pantaleon & San Jose Law Office, Metro Rail Transit Dev't. Corp., Poblador Bautista Reyes Law Office, Sun Cellular and Club Leisure Management Corp. Call the LSGH Alumni Office at 721-2729 / 726-6339.

CAGE CHAMPS: The Ateneo Grade School Basketball Team recently won the 2006 PSBL mini division championship after beating San Beda Alabang, 75-63. (1st row, from left) Coach Marc, Dan Armena, Ged Austria, Anton Asistio, Jeo Consunji, Remby Chavez, Mark Gamboa, Ernest Sto. Tomas and Coach Dondi. (2nd row from left) Gio Tiongson, Ansel Enriquez, Robby Andres, Ivan Lee, Von Pessumal, Kiefer Ravena and Nicko Bahia. Absent is Gabby Mesina. Ravena bagged the MVP award.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OVERSEAS WORKERS WELFARE ADMINISTRATION
OWWA Center Bldg., F.B. Harrison St., Cor. 7th St., Pasay City
Tel Nos. 891-7601 to 24

Section I. Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Seafarers' Identity Document (SID) Project

1. The **Overseas Workers Welfare Administration**, through the Corporate Budget for the contract intends to apply the sum of thirty eight million pesos (PhP 38,000,000.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the Seafarers' Identity Document (SID) Project. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The **Overseas Workers Welfare Administration** now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Seafarers' Identity Document (SID) Project. Delivery of the GOODS is required by **March 1, 2006**. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB.
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted to Filipino citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the **Overseas Workers Welfare Administration** and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm

   General Administrative Services
   Third Floor, OWWA Center Building
   7th corner F.B. Harrison Streets, Pasay City
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of five thousand seven hundred pesos (PhP 5,700.00). The method of payment will be cash, manager's check or company check. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The **Overseas Workers Welfare Administration** will hold a **Pre-Bid Conference** open to all interested parties on **February 6, 2006 at 9:30 AM** at the **Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor, OWWA Center Building, 7th corner F.B. Harrison Streets, Pasay City.**
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **February 20, 2006 at 9:30 AM**. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of cash, certified check, cashier's check, bank draft, irrevocable letter of credit, or bank guarantee. Late Bids shall not be accepted.
8. Bid opening shall be on **February 20, 2006 at 9:30 AM** at the **Blas F. Ople Hall, 5th Floor, OWWA Center Building.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address below:

   OWWA Center Building
   7th corner F.B. Harrison Streets, Pasay City
9. The SEAFARERS' IDENTITY DOCUMENT (SID) PROJECT shall be issued to all Filipino seafarers whose contracts have been processed at the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and shall conform to the standards prescribed by the International Labor Organization (ILO) Convention No. 185 of 2003, inclusive of the production of the SID card, hardware, software, systems solutions, training requirements, and technical support, as well as the commissioning and testing of the system
10. The **Overseas Workers Welfare Administration** reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Agency	*Overseas Workers Welfare Administration*
Contact Person	*Director Ma. Lourdes V. Reyes*
Address	*OWWA Center Building, 7th corner F.B. Harrison Streets, Pasay City*
Contact Number	*63-2-834-0170*
E-mail Address	*sidbidding@yahoo.com*
Facsimile Number	*63-2-833-1010*

(Sgd.) ANGELO A. JIMENEZ
Deputy Administrator and Chairperson
Joint OWWA-POEA
Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI – January 22 & 29, 2006)

Corporate Cup lures 75 teams

AT LEAST 300 PLAYERS REPRESENTING 75 teams are seeing action in the 18th edition of the Philippine Corporate Cup golf championship on March 6-9 at the Camp John Hay Golf Club in Baguio City.

The organizing Club Leisure Management, Corp. has lined up a series of side-events to spice up the tourney, including a bonfire/street party in the evening of March 7, a barbecue dinner on March 8, and the awarding ceremonies at the newly opened 19th Tee on March 9.

Meanwhile, organizers also announced that last year's participants which have been given the first option for this year must sign up on or before Tuesday or their slots will be given to those on the waiting list.

"We have been getting a lot of inquiries but we'll have to wait for the deadline set for last year's teams before we can accommodate them," said Jeric Hechanova of the organizing team.

The Corporate Cup, a brainchild of former Philippine Sports Commission chair Cecil Hechanova, is sponsored by the Camp John Hay Golf Club, the Camp John Hay Manor, Camp John Hay Development Corp., Golforce, Federal Maintenance and Management Inc. and Club Leisure Management Corp.

Entry fee of P35,000 is inclusive of a four-night stay in two rooms at CJH Manor for the four players, a practice round, cocktails and dinners. Call 046-4300264 or e-mail golf@manilasouthwoods.com.

Rocky, Salim fight Thais

BANGKOK—Filipinos Rocky Fuentes and Reman Salim arrived in Bangkok last Friday to vie for two major regional titles on Jan. 31 here. Fuentes, the country's No. 2 flyweight, will take on Kaichon Sor Vorapin in a 12-round battle for the vacant World Boxing Organization Asia Pacific junior flyweight title while Salim goes up against Sod Looknoyantoy for the vacant WBO Asia Pacific superbantam crown. "This will be two explosive match-ups sure to entertain the fans," said WBO Asia Pacific chair Leon Panoncillo in an e-mail. Fuentes and Salim are accompanied by ALA Gym trainer Edmund Villamor.

Salven L. Lagumbay

Let's protect Pacquiao

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

HOME IS THE hero.

What's he supposed to do now that he's back?

If I were Manny Pacquiao, I'll lie low. No public appearances. N'yet. Just sleep, eat, sleep, eat. Romp with my two sons. Watch movies on DVDs at home. Walk within the confines of home, in the backyard, for exercise. Get as much rest as possible.

You deserve it, Manny. You deserve everything. You've done so much sacrifice for the country already.

We will not mind it if you refuse to sign autographs.

We will not take it against you if you lock the doors.

Avoid parties.

Avoid hangers-on.

No billiards yet, please.

No cockfights yet, please.

We will still smile even if you don't smile back at us.

We will understand. We must understand.

Although you won, it was obvious you fought a difficult fight.

We saw your fists that you had bared right after the fight.

Gosh, your left knuckles were so swollen from the punishment you had inflicted on Erik Morales they looked like huge root crops minutes after the brawl.

Even your right knuckles weren't spared either. They appeared like bunches of oversized grapes.

We all saw it: You used both hands to throw bombs nonstop at Morales.

We heard it: You said when you were terribly pummeling Morales, the nation's hopes, dreams, were on those punches that Sunday morning (Saturday evening in Las Vegas).

You succeeded, brilliantly inflicting on Morales his first knockout in 52 fights. You did it so masterfully in the 10th, when you decked Morales twice with a rain of blows reminiscent of the bombing of Pearl Harbor. The referee couldn't do anything but to stop the carnage with 27 ticks left in the round.

Gosh, it all looked so easy for you, but we know it really wasn't a piece of cake. No, it wasn't the so-called walk in the park.

You also absorbed some of the Mexican's best shots. You endured them all in the name of bravery, before the altar of national, patriotic, pride.

You toiled hard to achieve the dream of a nation torn and divided by fractious elements, chief of them, shame on them, are the main squatters at the Palace.

You worked harder than the usual preparing for the fight.

You sacrificed not seeing your beautiful wife, Jinkee, last Christmas.

You sacrificed not being with Jinkee and the kids on your birthday last Dec. 17.

Even overseas calls from your loved ones, including your dear mother, Dionesia, were mostly prohibited as they had been treated as distractions.

In this return match, the only one person that preoccupied your mind was Morales, who beat you on points the first time you met on March 19, 2005.

We know you couldn't afford to be defeated again in The Battle II. Another loss to Morales would consign you to the pits and it would be terribly hard for you to climb back to the mainstream again.

So, you ignored loud whispers of your foe's 5-inch reach advantage, using unrelenting body bombs this time to weaken the foundations of the breadbasket.

Wow, we all saw it!

You would lead with a right to the body, and next follow that up with blinding lefts tattooing Morales' face like a paintbrush doing graffiti on a subway wall.

You were the best listener in this fight, so good a listener Freddie Roach, your American trainer, was overly profuse in praise.

"I taught him everything I know on how to beat Morales, and thank God, he listened," said Roach, your trainer since 2001. "Pacquiao should be chiefly credited with the win. For, once I released him from the corner, it was him who was in charge altogether."

With you back in town, you are now out of Roach's reach—at least momentarily.

Savor every moment of it, however fleeting.

Grab back your life, however fleeting.

And because you are our hero, we will gladly help you rediscover it.

But first, let's provide you with some space.

Next, we will protect you from the assaulting pack of wolves, blood hounds all, a.k.a. politicians.

A barricade would be more like it.

* * *

Comments to menju@pldtdsl.net

Mayol-Trejo tiff up in Mexico

UNDEFEATED FILIPINO RODEL MAYOL AND HIS Mexican opponent Lorenzo Trejo both came in at 103.4 lbs during the official weigh-in yesterday at the Plaza Kukulcan in Cancun, Mexico. Mayol and Trejo battle it out today at the Plaza de Toros, a bullring in Cancun, in a 12-round war that will determine the next mandatory challenger to WBC minimumweight kingpin Eagle Kyowa. ***Salven L. Lagumbay***

Barako battle Kings today

Air21 eyes equalizer vs Purefoods

YENG GUIAO BELIEVES HE'S FIGured Barangay Ginebra out already.

The Red Bull mentor will make his Barako come into Game 4 today of their PBA Fiesta Conference semifinal series with the Kings in basically the same way they did the first three matches and will wait for adjustments the Ginebra coaching staff will make.

"They (Kings) will take the bigger risks of making big adjustments having lost two games in a row," Guiao said. "High-energy defense is the right formula that got us ahead in the series. We'll not deviate from that."

Two-to-one up in the best-of-seven series and two more victories shy of a return trip to the Finals, Red Bull has taken the best the Kings could offer and don't only sound like it is in control, it also looks like a team handling the reins.

GAMES TODAY (*Araneta Coliseum*)
4:10 p.m.—Red Bull vs Barangay Ginebra
6:40 p.m.—Air21 vs Purefoods

Red Bull and Ginebra clash in the 4:10 p.m. game at the Araneta Coliseum with momentum obviously on the side of the Barako. The Kings still having some licking-of-wounds to do after losing Games 2 and 3.

Ginebra doggedly tried to come back from 30 points down in the third period on Friday, only to fall short because its locals played below par and import Chris Porter losing steam.

Mark Caguioa made just one of 15 tries from the field and finished with just two points before fouling out. Jay-Jay Helterbrand and Eric Menk were not their usual selves.

Meanwhile, Purefoods, also 2-1 up over Air21 in their separate Final Four series, will try to bounce back from a lopsided loss also Friday when they take on the Express in the 6:40 p.m. contest.

Coach Ryan Gregorio, though, has a mouthful to say about the way the Express played, specifically Game 3 where he claimed seeing cheap shots being thrown his players.

"Without sounding like I am sour-graping, I want to appeal that we play according to the rules," Gregorio said. "We're bothered by their (Express) cheap shots. Some of them are getting away with punches and all.

"I have to stress that officiating is on a high level," he added. "But I reviewed the tape and I saw (De Ocampo brothers) Yancy and Ranidel in particular getting away with punches." *Musong Castillo*

RACING

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—My Little Pet (5), Ikaw Lamang (4), Cunning Eagle (1), Kitana (3)
Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)— Screaming Eagle (8), Lakambini (2), Earth Angel (7), Empire Trish (1)
Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Habagat (7), Magic Ewan (6), Maximus (2), Tony's Secret (4)
Race 4—(Penta/Tri)—Classy Pages (13), Miss Malabon (12), Summer Rain (9), Doña Nene (5), Pretty Pretty Girl (4)
Race 5—(Qrt/Tri)—Slatkis (1), Michael Da Fragon (3), Master King (6), Pine Needles (2)
Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Crystal City/ Michaela Mia (5), Harrod's Magic (6), Eye Candy (9), Kay Element (9)
Race 7—(Penta/Tri)—Collective Dreams (9), Born Perfect (1), Primo Supremo/Empire State (6), Epic Energy (8), Reign Of Fire (5)
Race 8—Modern Classic (7), Best in Class (4), Imperator (9), Hezabellaglo (5)
Race 9—(Penta/Tri)—Money for Rap (14), Clear Stone (7), Kumpirmado (6), Five O'Clock (5), Speed King (4)
Race 10—(Qrt/Tri)—I Love This Game (1), Tres Jeune (6), Winter's Fury (5), Zubalda (2)
Race 11—(Penta/Tri)—Gallant Warrior (12), Yao Man (14), Drink N Drink (3), Stratosphere (5), Heart Of Jonna (7)
Race 12—(Qrt/Tri)—Candu (7), Karma (6), Friendly Venture (4), Gemstone (1)
Race 13—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—My Sheikh (4), Ichiro (7), Hurry Prince (10), Silver Cho Cho (3), Rebound (8), Look Of Love (6)

SPORTSWATCH

ACCI Mango Tee

THE ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB KICKS OFF THE 22nd Mango Tee today with more than 600 participants. Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Smart Communications have signed on to be co-presenters for the event, which boasts a number of hole and major sponsors. The five-day event officially began with the ceremonial tee-off at ACCI with former President Fidel V. Ramos as guest of honor.

Fistorama on RPN-9

FISTORAMA FEATURES AT 4 P.M. TODAY A FOUR-round bout between newcomers Nestor Jun Gumatay and Mansueto Bacaltos Jr. in the light-flyweight division. Barangay chair Rodrigo Asilo also appears in an interview with anchorman Ed Picson in the RPN-9 program. All these in Edgardo "Boy" Cantada's fight card held at the Damayan Covered Court in Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City. Golf Power Plus airs at 3 p.m. featuring Adamson U Team III against St. Francis de Assisi in the 1st Samsung Inter-Collegiate Women's Beach Volleyball Challenge.

GCAP fetes Pacman

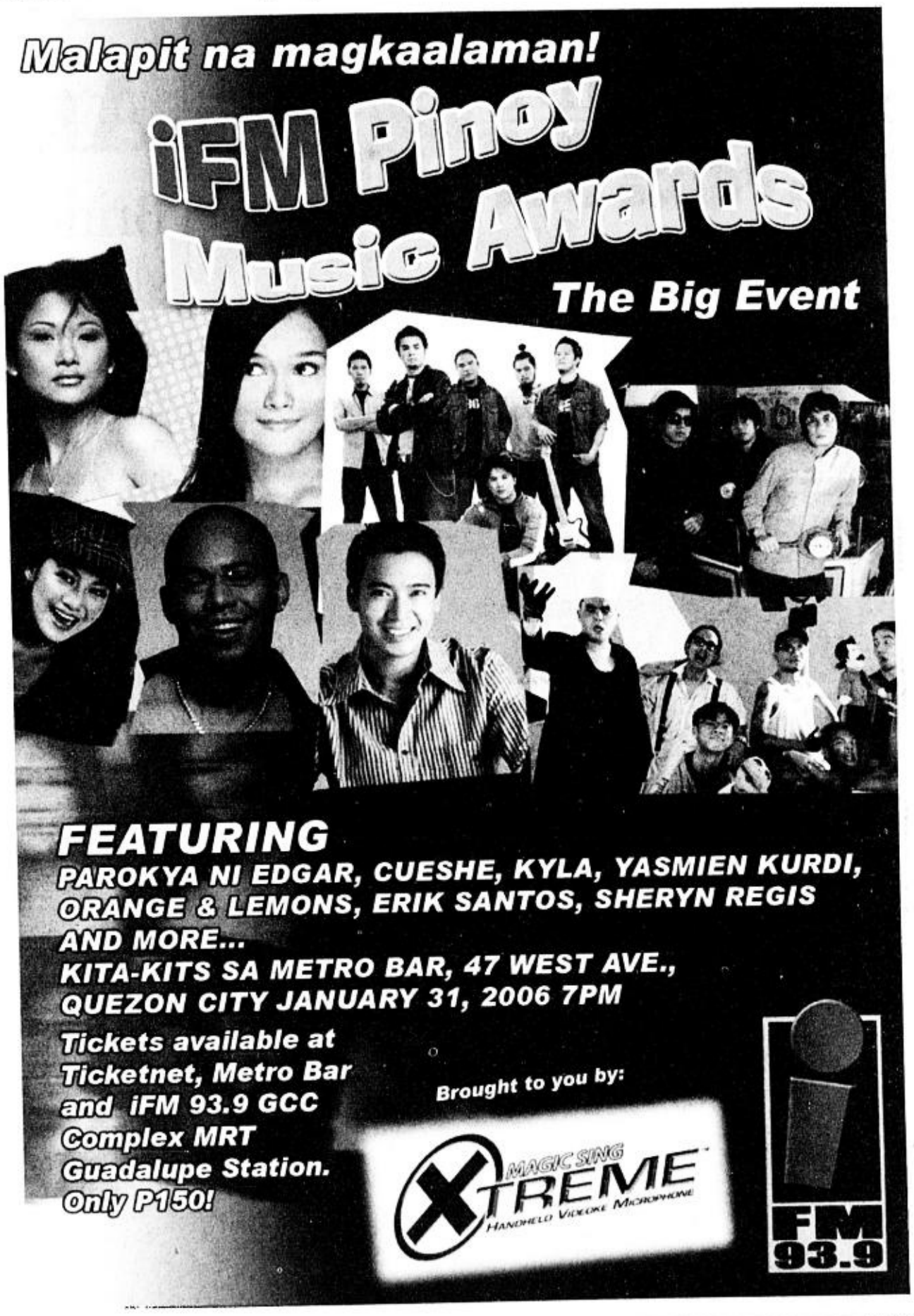
MEMBERS OF THE GENTLEMEN COCKERS ASSOciation of the Philippines (GCAP) as well as the management of San Juan Coliseum will welcome boxing hero Manny Pacquiao, who is also a cockfighting enthusiast, with a cocktail party on Feb. 3. The affair will be held at Shangrila Hotel-Edsa. Pacquiao, in cooperation with Sagupaan Complexor 3000 and GCAP, will co-sponsor a super cockfest dubbed as Pacquiao Big Event 6- cock derby on Feb. 8 at San Juan Coliseum. "Manny agreed to co- sponsor the event since part of derby proceeds will be used to support a charitable institution of his choice," said sabong idol Patrick Antonio of the GCAP. Contact 7255369.

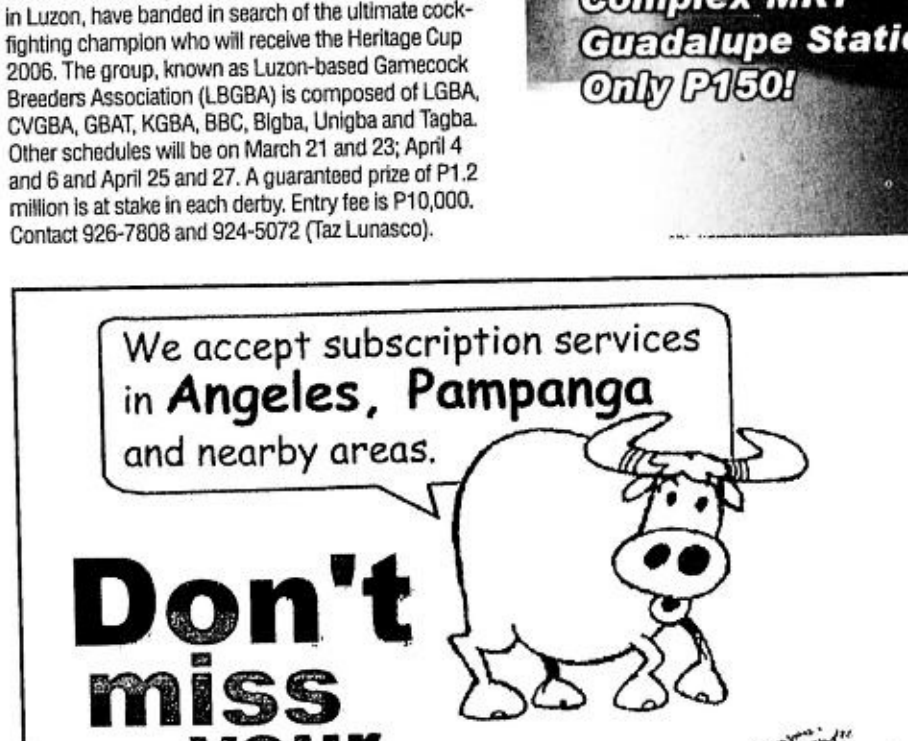
Anniversary derby

THE 16TH ANNIVERSARY 6-COCK DERBY OF Roligon Mega Cockpit unfolds Tuesday, Jan. 31. More than 120 participants opted to field their entries on the opening day. Other participants may still join on Feb. 2, 4 and 7 (elimination rounds). The finals is on Feb. 9. "Cockers and breeders should take note that the prize money of P4 million is the same as that in an international derby," said host Rolly Ligon. "The only difference is that we're giving away a Toyota Innova for the fastest win champion." Entry fee is P11,000. For inquiries, call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812.

Heritage Cup Feb. 21

THE FIRST LEG OF THE HERITAGE CUP 2006 5-COCK derby series will blast off at the Araneta Coliseum on Feb. 21 and 23. Eight major cockers groups, all based in Luzon, have banded in search of the ultimate cockfighting champion who will receive the Heritage Cup 2006. The group, known as Luzon-based Gamecock Breeders Association (LBGBA) is composed of LGBA, CVGBA, GBAT, KGBA, BBC, Bigba, Unigba and Tagba. Other schedules will be on March 21 and 23; April 4 and 6 and April 25 and 27. A guaranteed prize of P1.2 million is at stake in each derby. Entry fee is P10,000. Contact 926-7808 and 924-5072 (Taz Lunasco).





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Jobe leads Buick golf; Tiger trails by 7 shots

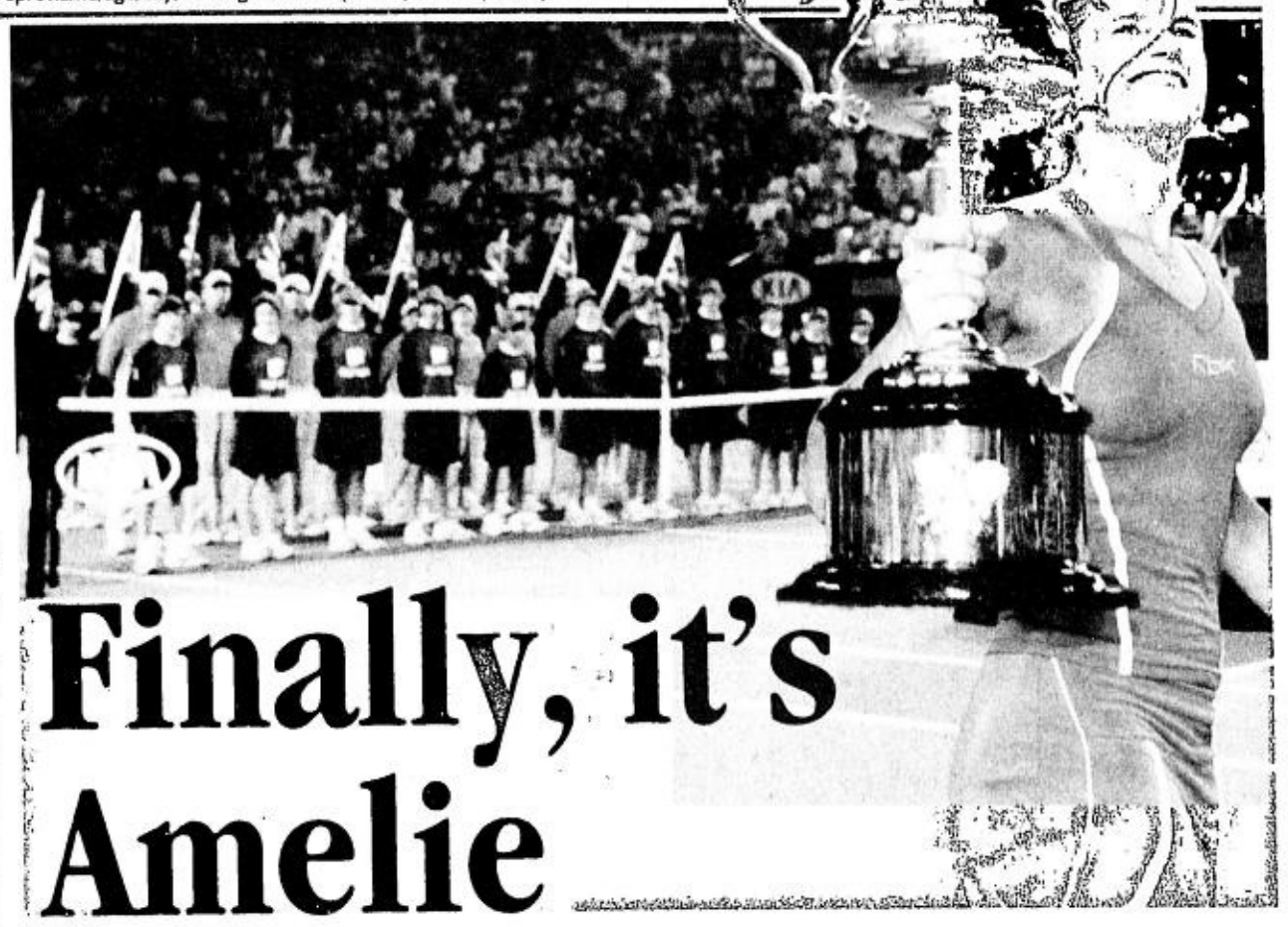
SAN DIEGO—BRANDT JOBE NOW CAN SAY he is leading the Buick Invitational after handling the tough South Course with a 5-under 67 on Friday.

Coming off a brilliant round of putting on the easier North Course, the long-hitting Jobe kept the ball in play and made the only eagle on the par-5 18th on the South Course to build a two-shot lead over Tim Clark and Jesper Parnevik.

"My games yesterday and today were not even comparable," said Jobe, who was at 12-under 132. "I hit the ball good today and putted great yesterday. I don't know what's going to happen tomorrow."

The two courses at Torrey Pines are vastly different, making determining who's playing well difficult. The final two days will include defending champion Tiger Woods, who recovered from a rugged start to his year with a 4-under 68 on the South, including a 60-foot eagle putt on the 13th.

Woods was seven shots out of the lead. *AP*



Finally, it's Amelie

Bring out the wine bottle, Mauresmo slays her Grand Slam demons at last

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA—Wine lover Amelie Mauresmo bought a special bottle years ago in anticipation of winning her first Grand Slam title.

She can finally pop open the 69-year-old bottle after ailing Justine Henin-Hardenne called it quits during their Australian Open final Saturday while trailing, 6-1, 2-0.

In an anticlimactic finish that stunned the packed Rod Laver Arena crowd, Henin-Hardenne retired with stomach pain from anti-inflammatories that she's been taking for her sore right shoulder.

"Everything really came together here," said Mauresmo, adding that the first set may have been the best that she's ever played in a big match.

"I was focusing on really what I had to do and taking control of the points the way I did for the whole match and really not paying really much of an attention to how she felt."

It was a bit of karma for the 26-year-old Mauresmo, who has suffered through her own ailments—and occasional jitters—while seeking her first major final since losing here in 1999 to Martina Hingis.

Mauresmo has been hounded by the "choker" label since losing to Hingis and has never made it to a Grand Slam final since then until now.

She benefited when semifinal opponent Kim Clijsters tore a ligament in her ankle in the third set Thursday, and Michaela Krajicek wilted in their third-round match with heat exhaustion.

"Things turn around at some point," said Mauresmo, who played her first Grand Slam event in 1995 at age 15. "In France we say, 'The sadness of some makes the happiness of others.'"

On the men's side, top-ranked Roger Federer, seeking his seventh Grand Slam title and third in a row, will face 54th-ranked Marcos Baghdatis on Sunday.

After losing two straight Australian Open doubles finals, top-seeded Bob and Mike Bryan had a 4-6, 6-3, 6-4 victory Saturday over seventh-seeded Leander Paes and Martin Damm.

Known for getting tight at crucial times, Mauresmo really had nothing to get nervous about this time. She won 19 of the first 24 points en route to a 5-0 lead.

Henin-Hardenne called the trainer after falling behind 2-0 in the second set and played only two more points.

"Last night I was feeling so bad I thought I would have to go to see a doctor at 3 in the morning because I was such in pain," said Henin-Hardenne, who went into the match on a 13-match Melbourne Park winning streak.

"I knew at the beginning of the match I couldn't win it. You always want to try because you know it's a Grand Slam final," she said. "If I would have kept playing, maybe I would injure something else. I have no regrets."

Mauresmo had the second-longest wait for her first major title in the Open era, 32 Grand Slam events. Jana Novotna won Wimbledon in 1998, her 45th major.

"I worked so hard, came close many times," Mauresmo said. "Finally this is it. Finally!" *AP*

Celtics ruin Artest debut with Kings

BOSTON—RON ARTEST'S 15 points weren't enough in his Sacramento debut and the Boston Celtics got 18 points from Paul Pierce to win 84-74 Friday night, beating the Kings for just the second time in 12 attempts.

Artest wore out his welcome in Indiana and was traded to Sacramento for Peja Stojakovic on Wednesday in an attempt to turn around the Kings' sinking season. Although Artest provided a spark—scoring seven of the team's first 15 points—Sacramento fizzled in the fourth quarter and made under 31 percent of its shots overall in its worst shooting night of the season.

The Celtics had their own debut: Wally Szczerbiak made his first appearance since being acquired from the Minnesota Timberwolves for Ricky Davis as part of a seven-player trade. He scored 10 points in 24 minutes; Michael Olowokandi, who also came over in the deal, did not play.

Artest went 1-for-5 from the field in the fourth and the Kings made just four baskets—on 18 shots—in the final quarter. Sacramento did not make a basket for 7:19 down the stretch as the Celtics turned a three-point game into a 12-point lead.

Artest was 5-for-14 from the floor overall and 3-for-7 from 3-point range. He had six rebounds, four steals and two assists.

SACRAMENTO'S Brad Miller (left) and Kenny Thomas (right) discuss strategy with Ron Artest. REUTERS

Boston's Kendrick Perkins had 13 points and 11 rebounds, and Raef LaFrentz had 12 and 10.

COMPLETE NBA RESULTS: Phoenix 110, Atlanta 106; Cleveland 93, Indiana 89; Miami 91, Charlotte 85; Boston 84, Sacramento 74; New York 97, Orlando 94; Detroit 95, Memphis 89; Milwaukee 108, Toronto 87; Chicago 90, Washington 79; Minnesota 96, Houston 92; LA Clippers 105, Denver 87; Portland 88, New Jersey 83; LA Lakers 106, Golden State 105, OT

NBA on TV: 10 a.m.—Minnesota vs San Antonio, Solar Sports (replay at 7 p.m.)

10 a.m.—Minnesota vs San Antonio, RPN-9

9 p.m.—Charlotte vs Washington, RPN-9

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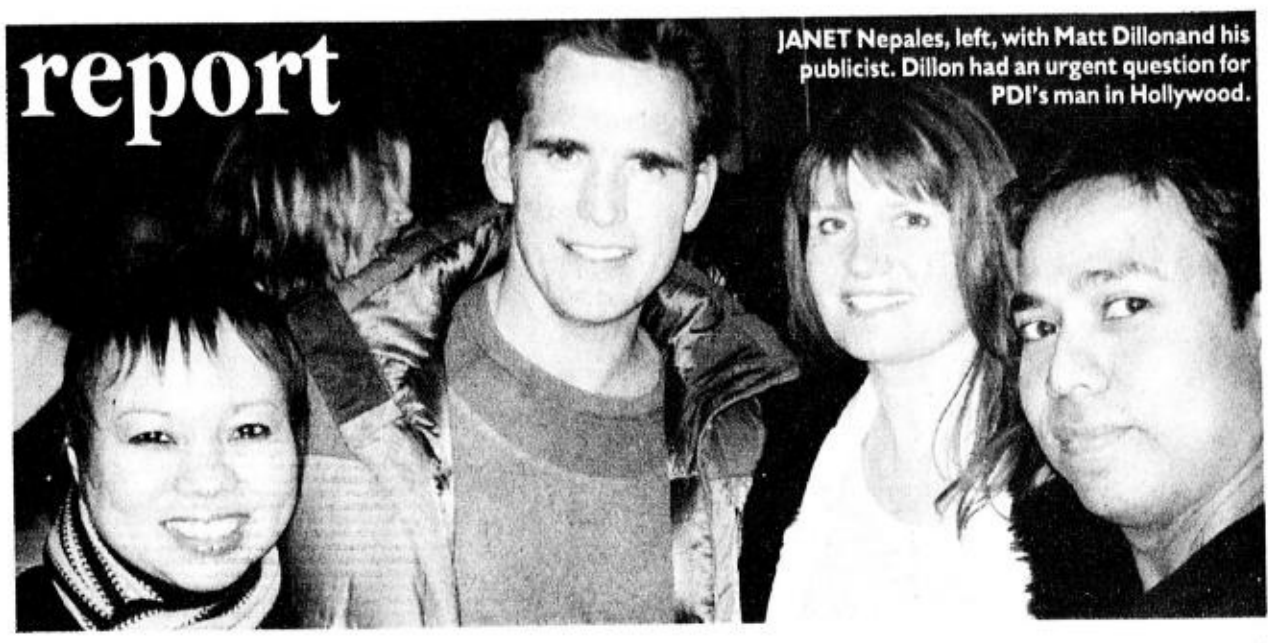
DID YOU KNOW THAT...

... At the end of the filming of Titanic, Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio poured ice water down James Cameron's back, payback for what they had to endure for several months.

INQUIRER's Sundance report

Overdosing on films and parties and happily taking the bus everywhere

Photos by Ruben and Janet Susan Nepales



JANET Nepales, left, with Matt Dillonand his publicist. Dillon had an urgent question for PDI's man in Hollywood.

PARK CITY, UTAH—WE'LL BE back in LA by the time this column comes out but here's a detailed report of our week's stay in the Wasatch Mountains, covering the pioneering and prestigious Sundance Film Festival:

ONLY IN HOLLYWOOD

Ruben V. Nepales

Thursday, January 19, we had barely recovered from the frenzy of the Golden Globe Awards just a couple of days ago when we boarded a small plane bound for Salt Lake City, Utah. Upon arrival, we took a shuttle bus that took us to the resort town of Park City, site of the film fest which began in 1978 as the Utah/US Film Festival (it was renamed Sundance Film Festival in 1991).

Snow covered the mountains that we traveled through. Now this is winter, we thought with glee—not the sunny weather we left behind at the Burbank airport. As we waited in line for our condo key at a lodging firm's office, actor **Gael Garcia Bernal** ("Y Tu Mama Tambien" and "The Motorcycle Diaries," both acclaimed) walked in, also to pick up his key. "This is my third time here," said the actor, who was wearing glasses and sporting long hair and a full beard. His film, "The Science of Sleep," was being premiered in Sundance.

Great equalizer

Gael invited us to the after-party, sheepishly revealing with a smile, "The guest list has grown to 800." We thought of a Pinay friend in Singapore, a Mrs. Gael Garcia Bernal in her fantasy, who would have hyperventilated had she been around.

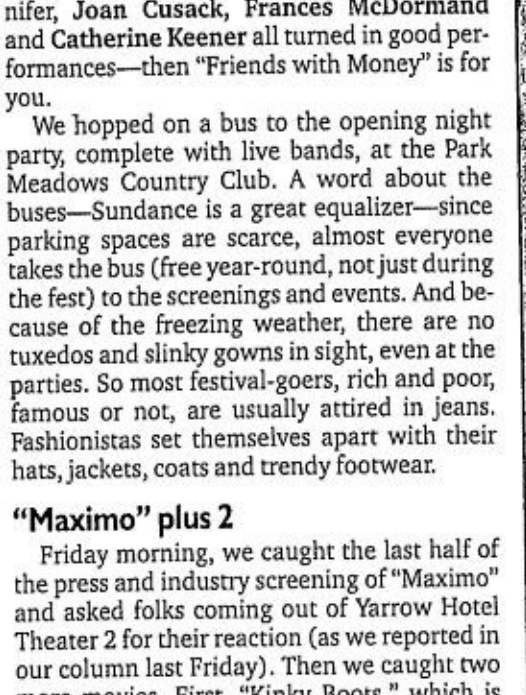
We dropped our luggage at the snow-blanketed condo and hied off to the opening-night screening of "Friends with Money." This was the **Jennifer Aniston** film that **Auraeus Solito**, director of the first-ever Sundance competition entry from the Philippines, "Ang Pagdadalaga ni (The Blossoming of) Maximo Oliveros," missed because his flight to Salt Lake City from Okinawa got delayed. *Na-miss niya tuloy si* Jen, he rued when we met him later. If you can imagine Jennifer as a maid, then this film about four LA women—Jennifer, **Joan Cusack**, **Frances McDormand** and **Catherine Keener** all turned in good performances—then "Friends with Money" is for you.

We hopped on a bus to the opening night party, complete with live bands, at the Park Meadows Country Club. A word about the buses—Sundance is a great equalizer—since parking spaces are scarce, almost everyone takes the bus (free year-round, not just during the fest) to the screenings and events. And because of the freezing weather, there are no tuxedos and slinky gowns in sight, even at the parties. So most festival-goers, rich and poor, famous or not, are usually attired in jeans. Fashionistas set themselves apart with their hats, jackets, coats and trendy footwear.

"Maximo" plus 2

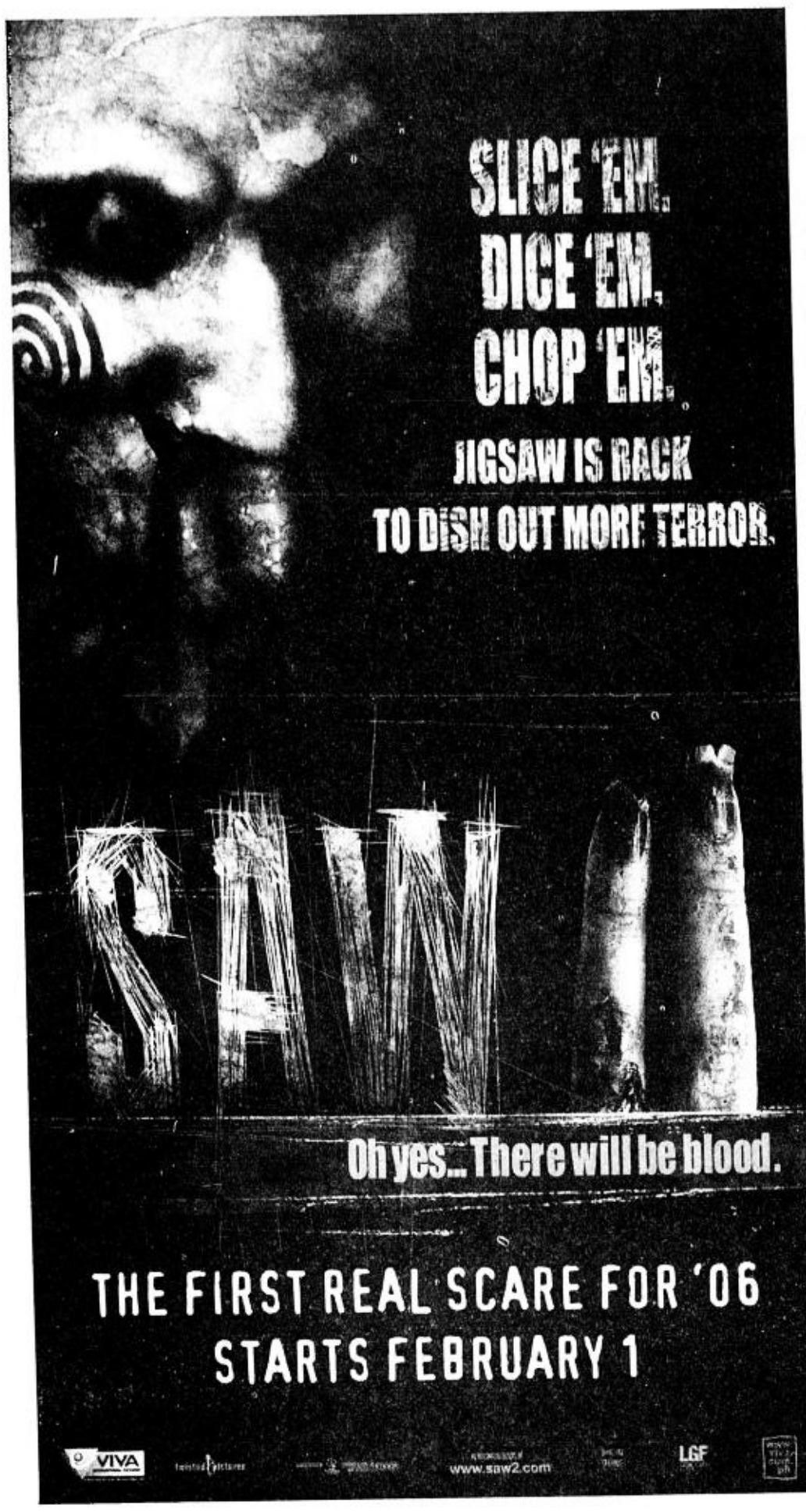
Friday morning, we caught the last half of the press and industry screening of "Maximo" and asked folks coming out of Yarrow Hotel Theater 2 for their reaction (as we reported in our column last Friday). Then we caught two more movies. First, "Kinky Boots," which is (sigh) not kinky at all but an entertaining British film about a shoe factory owner (played by **Joel Edgerton**, one more fine Aussie actor) who gets a chance to revive his failing business when he meets a transvestite (an engaging **Chiwetel Ejiofor**) who likes to wear fancy boots.

Next, we caught "A Little Trip to Heaven," a crime noir starring **Forest Whitaker** (as an insurance claims investigator) and **Julia Stiles**. It felt like a little trip to drudgery in-



JUROR Terrence Howard and a fan on Main Street.

SUNDANCE/ A2-2



CRITIC Roger Ebert's advice: To take in more movies, stay away from the parties!

Sundance . . .

From page A2-1

was hunched over her Apple laptop, creating a postcard that they were planning to print and then distribute to entice fest goers to watch "Maximo's" remaining four screenings.

We told the trio what we liked about the film—the performances, quiet moments, un-melodramatic spirit and crisp look (Sampaloc, with its mix of squalor and greenery, is captured in clear detail on Sony HD Cam).

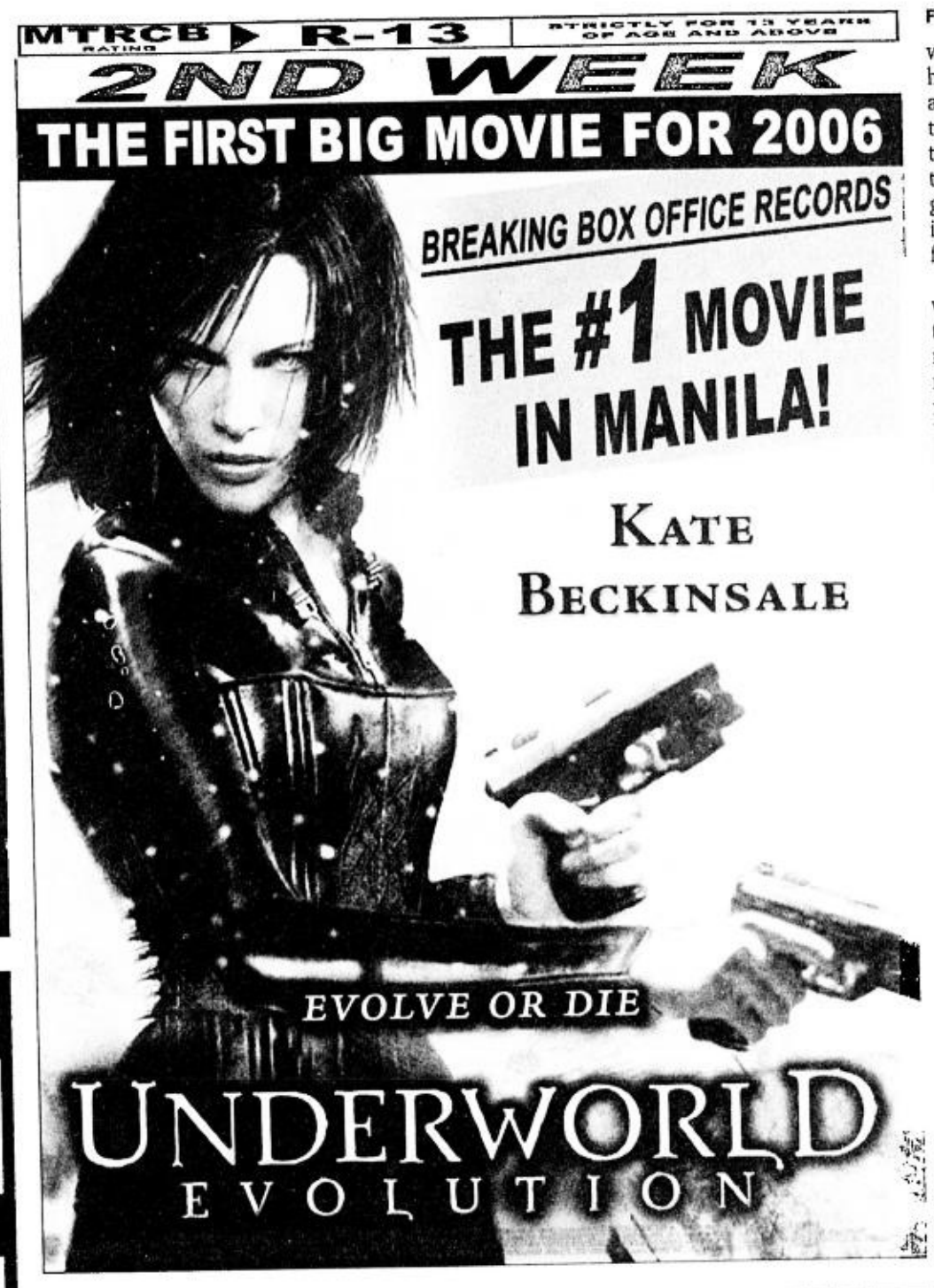
After we parted, my wife **Janet** and I strolled on Main Street, where the main festival action was, and it was teeming with people despite the snowfall. Folks were covered in jackets and hats but we recognized friendly faces along the way. Filipino-American actors and siblings **Dante** (the star of "The Debut" will be seen next with **Antonio Banderas** in "Take the Lead") and **Darion Basco** said hi on their way to a screening of "Wristcutters: A Love Story." Dante told us that his friend, **Goran Dukic**, directed this movie which was in the Independent Film Competition (Dramatic Category).

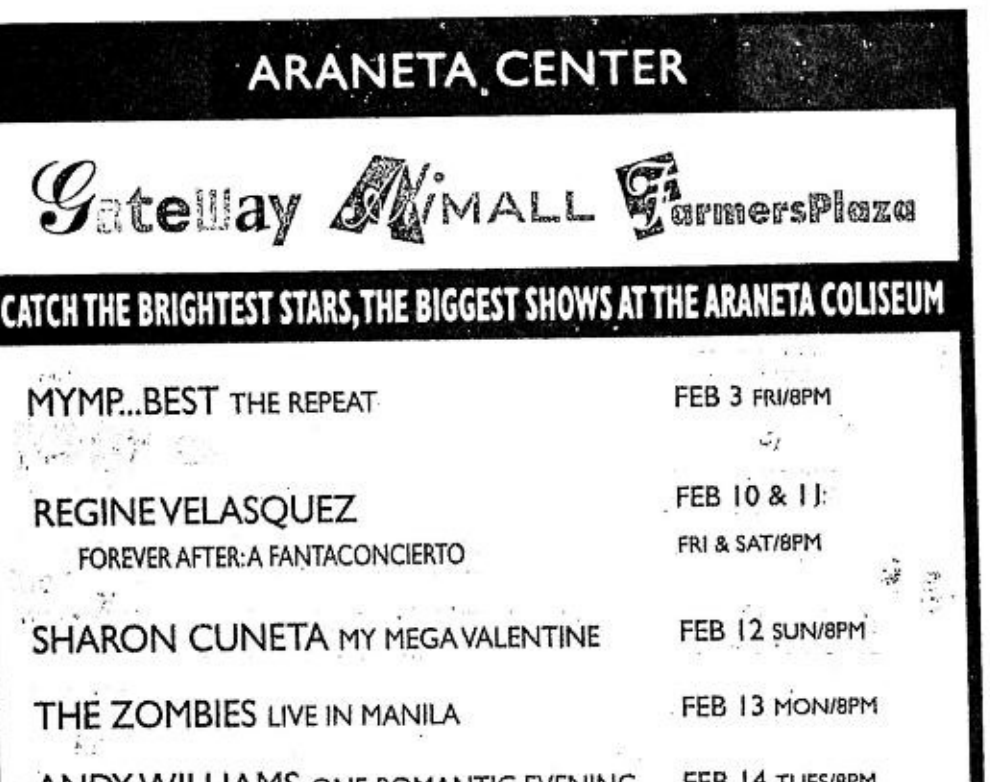
Traffic stopper

Actor **Terrence Howard**, in town as a jury member in the said category, stopped traffic as he was besieged by ladies wanting to have pictures with him. He was about to board a plush SUV (of course, stars will be stars anywhere—they don't take buses). "Did you get my telegram?" he teased me, repeating a question he asked at a party two nights before the Golden Globe Awards. He sent a thank-you telegram when he earned a nomination in the Best Actor (Drama Category) for "Hustle & Flow." I had told him that I didn't know telegram services still existed.

"Excuse me, we're walking" said a lady accompanying **Josh Harnett** but the actor smiled when he recognized us, stopped and said hello. He explained that he was in Park City for his movie "Lucky Number Slevin," which was one of the fest's Premieres offerings. The lady was not **Scarlett Johansson**, whom Josh is reportedly dating. The two met on the set of "Black Dahlia"—we

SUNDANCE/ A2-4





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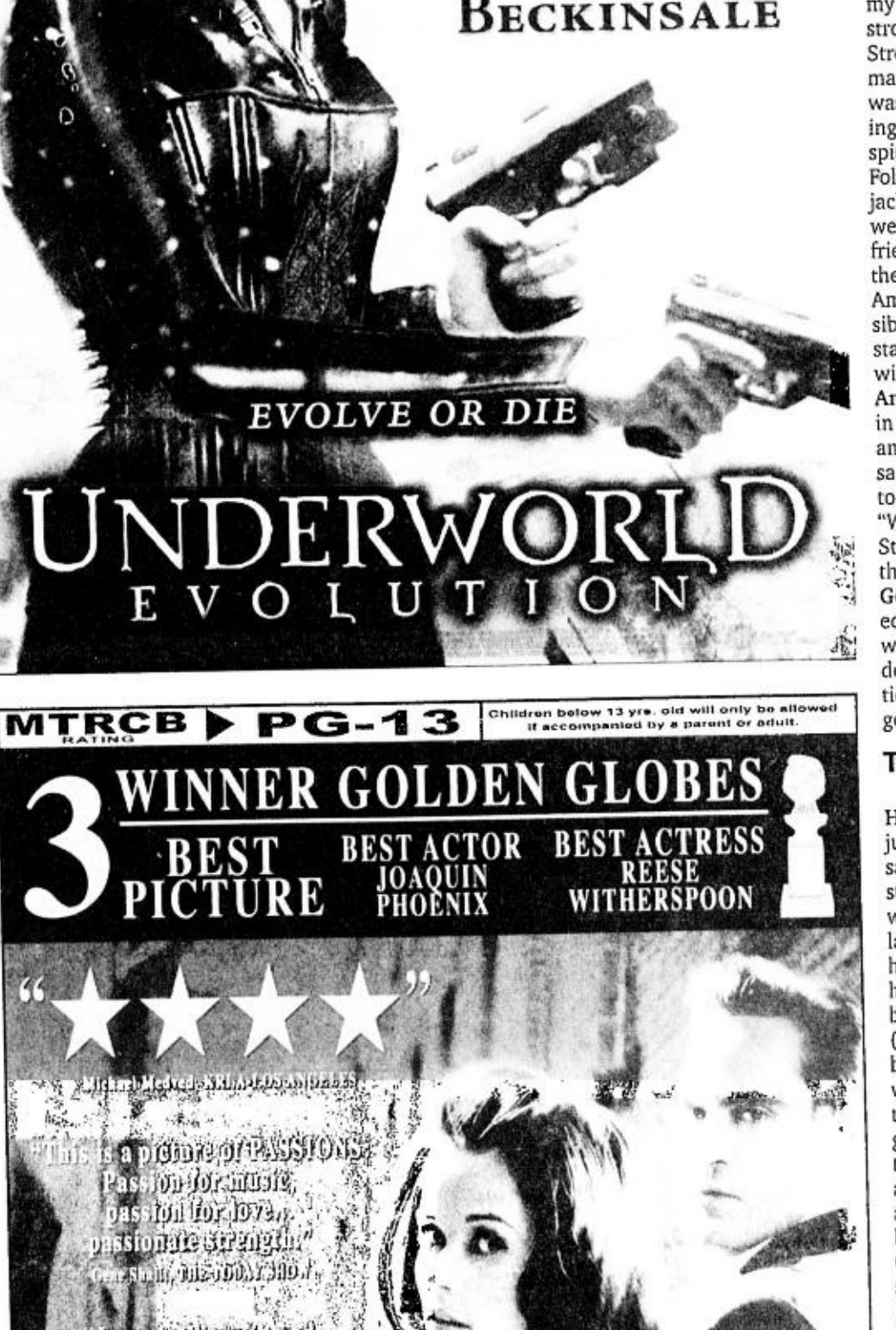


Great setting for old songs

PARK CITY—FOR AN EVENT ABOUT movies, the Sundance Film Festival has featured a parade of musicians, from Neil Young to the Beastie Boys, to offer new insight into singers and songs that span decades.

The festival has blended traditional documentaries such as director Lian Lunson's "Leonard Cohen: I'm Your Man," in which she profiles the 1960s poet-singer, with an unconventional film about the Beastie Boys. The Beasties gave 50 concert goers video cameras to tape one of their Madison Square Garden shows.

"Heart of Gold"

Former Police drummer Stewart Copeland charts his band's rise to stardom in the 1970s and 1980s using film he shot in "Everyone Stares: The Police Inside Out," and director Jonathan Demme peers into an iconic singer/songwriter's soul by creating a "dream experience" in "Neil Young: Heart of Gold."

Young writes and records deeply personal songs like "Old Man," and he calls the film, which features work from his recent "Prairie Wind" album, a deeply personal undertaking.

"It conjures up the history of my family and the music," Young told Reuters in a joint interview with Demme.

The pair said the movie was not a documentary, nor a concert film. It breaks new ground because each number, including hits from "Harvest" and "Harvest Moon" albums, was elaborately staged at the legendary Ryman Auditorium in Nashville, Tennessee.

As in a theatrical production, each song has a new setting.

Lights come up, and Young might tell a story then the song would illustrate that story.

"Seeing Neil Young expressing these lyrics and seeing the emotions that register on his face in his style of presentation is a sublime extra for understanding his music," Demme said.

Audience wowed

Sundance, held annually in this mountain town east of Salt Lake City is the top gathering for US independent film, and movies screening here will be among the most widely anticipated art house films of 2006.

Lunson's profile of iconic singer/songwriter Leonard Cohen has wowed audiences, too. For "I'm Your Man," the director interviewed the reclusive poet, as well as rock icons like Bono and Edge of U2 to talk about his impact on their music. Then, performers like Rufus Wainwright and Nick Cave sing his songs to show how Cohen's life is reflected in his work.

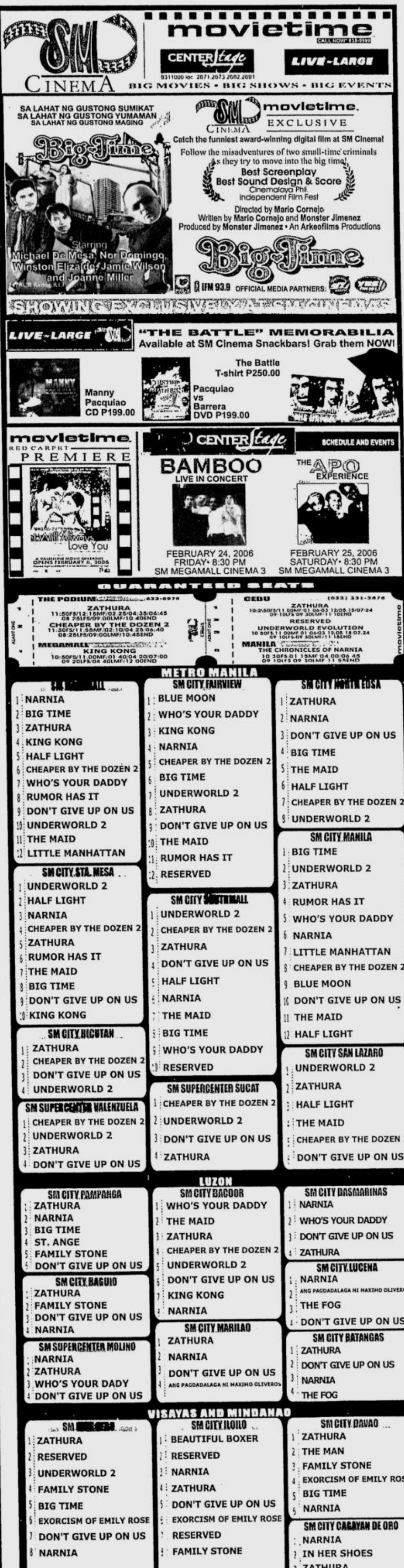
"His lyrics and poetry are so poignant and so beautifully deep that if young kids could listen to this and could be transformed by it that'd be great," Lunson told Reuters.

Copeland's "Everyone Stares" offers audiences a look at The Police before anybody had ever heard of him, bassist Sting, or guitarist Andy Summer and hits like "Can't Stand Losing You" were unknown.

In those early years, Copeland filmed life behind the scenes and often the band on stage. What emerges is a portrait of normal guys transforming into rock stars until fanfare and isolation from real life became too hard to handle.

In 1984, The Police broke up, but contrary to the pop culture headlines, Copeland said they were always friends and remain that way today.

Bob Tourtellotte, Reuters



FIL-AM actors and brothers Darion and Dante Basco, with friend Sacha Rasmussen, on busy Main Street. Dante, star of "The Debut" will star with Antonio Banderas in his next movie.

CHARLES C. Koones, left, president and publisher of Hollywood "bible" Variety, and journalist-photographer Munawar Hosain.

AARON Eckhart at the after-party for "Thank You For Smoking."

ASHLEY Judd gives a moving speech before giving a Women In Film award to Joey Lauren Adams, director of her festival starrer, "Come Early Morning."

INQUIRER's Sundance report

From page A2-2

are happy that two very nice and down-to-earth stars have hooked up.

We ducked into the Café Terigo for Columbia University's School of the Arts, Film Division's reception for its students and alumni participating at Sundance.

In the evening, we made our way through the snow and mud (there are no red carpets in Sundance) to the Eccles Theatre for "Thank You for Smoking," one of the best films here. The director, **Jason Reitman**, and some of his terrific cast—**Aaron Eckhart, Rob Lowe** and **William H. Macy**—went up the stage to resounding applause at the end of the movie.

Not kidding

We thought Jason was kidding when he said that portions of Aaron's sex scene with **Katie Holmes**' journalist character were missing. We learned later that he wasn't. He and his staff were themselves puzzled about the missing footage showing **Tom Cruise**'s fiancée and Aaron in bed. Rumors swirled. It turned out that the scene was accidentally cut when the movie's reels were spliced together in LA.

During the Q and A with the audience, Jason succinctly replied when he was asked about Katie: "She is madly in love."

Afterward, everybody clambered up the buses for the film's party, supposedly one of the hottest in the festival. Instead, we found an overcrowded tent. The entry of guests was being controlled. When we finally got in, we found out that there was plenty of alcohol but no food.

We went out, begged a Mexican restaurant that was about to close to take our order of food to-go, went back to the party and ate tacos, burritos and quesadillas in the middle of the tent party. Hungry guests eyes us... or, maybe the food.

It didn't take long for someone to heed, and add a twist to, the film's title: "Thank You for Smoking." Somebody lit up a stick of weed. The scent of marijuana quickly filled the tent. Either from

AURAEUS SOLITO (right, standing) and fellow Asian Pacific filmmakers. They were honored in a reception as members of the Sundance Class of 2006.

hunger, alcohol or the inhalation of grass smoke or the combination of all three, a guy in front of us licked the face of another man who was surprised but seemingly not revolted (he simply walked a few steps away). The guy, in turn, licked the face of a woman.

Then two girls danced lasciviously with each other to the music of a DJ. All this in conservative, Mormon-dominated Utah? On our way out, we saw a girl was warming her be-jeaned butt against a fire in an open pit. We blame her male companion on that one. He just looked on. Couldn't he take a hint?

The next day, we took in "Steel City," about working-class men in a Midwestern steel town. It was a nice way to while away the hours before the reception for Asian Pacific filmmakers participating in the fest. As we reported last Friday, we met Auraeus in this convivial event emceed by **Winston Emano**, a Fil-Am community stalwart.

We hailed a cab for Auraeus so he could make it in time to meet some high school friends living in the US who helped finance his Sundance trip. After dropping him off at the festival headquarters, we headed to the Riverhorse Café where **Ashley Judd**, looking more beautiful than ever, gave an award on behalf of Women In Film to **Joey Lauren Adams**. Joey directed Ashley in "Come Early Morning," which is competing in the Independent Film (Dramatic) derby. Both star and director gave moving speeches. U2's Edge was present (also in town were **Neil Young, Sting** and many other musicians but that's another story—there were too many things going on).

(See story on page A2/3.)

Then it was off to **Stein Eriksen**, a luxurious lodge located mid-mountain at Park City's Deer Valley Resort. **Matt Dillon** asked us if there was a warmer destination than the Antarctica expedition that was among the certificates inside his goodie bag as a Golden Globe presenter. When I said there was that other certificate to Canada (although it was also to a cold region), he exclaimed, laughing, "Warmer! Warmer!" We thought with amusement, well, you can probably give those trips to us.

The following day, while in line for Gael's "The Science of Sleep," we saw print and TV critic **Roger Ebert** falling in line, too, but his credentials badge allowed him to be whisked to the front of the queue. He told us that he had been attending the fest since 1981, when it was still a low key affair. His Sundance secret? "I never go to the parties. I save my energy that way," the silver-haired reviewer answered.

By the way, food (eating while watching makes it possible to see more movies—we were behind Roger the next day as he ordered a slice of pizza and root beer) and laptops (blogging is one of this fest's innovations) are allowed inside the screening venues.

"Science..." is an enjoyable sci-fi comedy-drama, thanks in large part to Gael's acting talent and charisma. We queued again for the next film, **Edward Norton**'s "The Illusionist." After waiting in line with about 200 folks for almost two hours, guess what? We were told that there were no more seats.

The disappointed crowd filed out without a complaint. That was one remarkable thing about Sundance. With so many people descending on this small town (its population is about 7,000 but during the festival, it swells to an estimated 30,000), we heard not a single heated argument during our stay.

Back to Main

With no other screening options, we revisited Main Street and explored the other end of this busy road. We found the lounges and booths where the most expensive goodie bags or swags were being given to the stars. Actor **Jason Isaacs** told us in a London interview that when he went to Sundance for the first time last year, he was bashful about carrying bags of freebie clothes and accessories. But when Jason saw other actors lugging bags and bags of **Fred Segal** stuff, he joined the action.

On that day we interviewed him, Jason revealed that what he was wearing from head to toe, including his underwear, were courtesy of the freebie booths at Sundance. He quipped that next time he goes to Sundance, he will bring extra bags for those freebies.

Ignoring Ebert

Ignoring Ebert's advice, we proceeded to a Japanese restaurant for the after-party of **Matt Dillon**'s "Factotum" (we missed the screening but we heard that the actor was compelling in this adaptation of **Charles Bukowski**'s novel). Then we trekked back to the Stein Eriksen for Variety's reception of its "10 Directors to Watch." We hoped that Auraeus and other Pinoy filmmakers will be among those feted next year and in the immediate future.

The next day, we wrote our Friday column and then, before returning to LA (the following morning), we caught a bus to catch two more movies—"Puccini for Beginners," a so-so tale about a lesbian who falls for a straight man and a woman at the same time and "Son of Man," a modern day retelling of Jesus' life in a dictator-ruled African nation. We were prepared to not finish the latter movie in case it turned out to be a dud but it was not; so we stayed till the end.

On Wednesday, on board the van to the airport, our seatmate, an income tax consultant who spent her vacation watching films in Sundance, wouldn't let us enjoy in peace the beautiful snow-packed mountain scenery. She kept talking about the films she saw. We gave up so we yakked and yakked about how "terrif" Aaron was in "Thank You..." and so on.

Everyone on the plane had come from Sundance, of course. The passengers hardly talked but we all read and read about... movies from all the publications we missed while watching film after film in that lovely small town down below.

E-mail the columnist at rvnepales_5585@yahoo.com.

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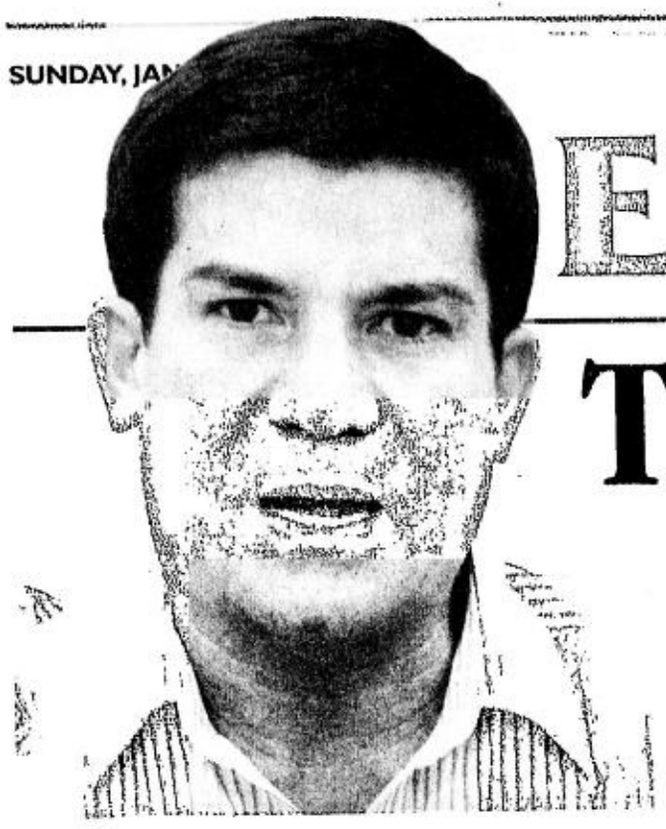

"I HAVE sacrificed a lot for this job, but so has everyone in my team." RYAN LIM

The OMB challenge

TAKE FIVE

Edu Manzano can still crack jokes between crackdowns on pirates

By the INQUIRER Entertainment Staff

UNENCUMBERED BY THE usual show biz coterie of bodyguards and assistants, the head of the Optical Media Board drove himself to the INQUIRER building, parked in front of the nightclub across the street and threatened to inspect the office computers for pirated software.

Was he only kidding?

When it came to the major issues confronting the film industry, like piracy and the ongoing crisis, however, there was no doubt he was serious.

Overall, the patented Manzano wit was still very much evident as he gabbed about his job, plans of going back to school and/or TV hosting, even snoring...

Talk about in-depth interview.

You look good—fit and trim.

I lost 50 pounds. I had surgery for sleep apnea, a sleeping disorder that I had for about 10 years. [So] I'm well-rested. I'm not so *masungit* anymore. Lack of sleep made me cranky.

What part of your body was affected by the surgery?

Here (points to mouth). My palette, avula, tonsils ... my throat.

So you used to snore?

Snore? I yelped! Ask my neighbors.

Don't you have sleepless nights as OMB head?

On the contrary, now I can somehow program sleep. I can schedule surveillance, actual and intel operations . . .

What kind of operations again?

Surveillance, actual operations or raids and intel or intelligence operations.

Did you ever imagine doing all this?

No. I wanted to be a lawyer. Well, this is close. I like to argue and half of this job is [doing] that.

What are your noteworthy achievements as OMB chair?

No, not just mine—let's talk about what the OMB has accomplished. Quite a bit.

During the last Metro Manila Film Festival (MMFF), we asked retailers not to sell pirated discs of MMFF entries and they complied!

In the last two years, we've been getting good feedback from the stakeholders, the Americans.

Last year, we received a commendation from the Motion Pictures Association-Interna

THE OMB A3-3

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"It's wonderful to be around Manny," said Champagne, who described the boxing champ as extremely sweet and super funny.

Champagne said his funniest joke so far has been to accuse her of being a relative of Erik Morales. *Nini Valera*

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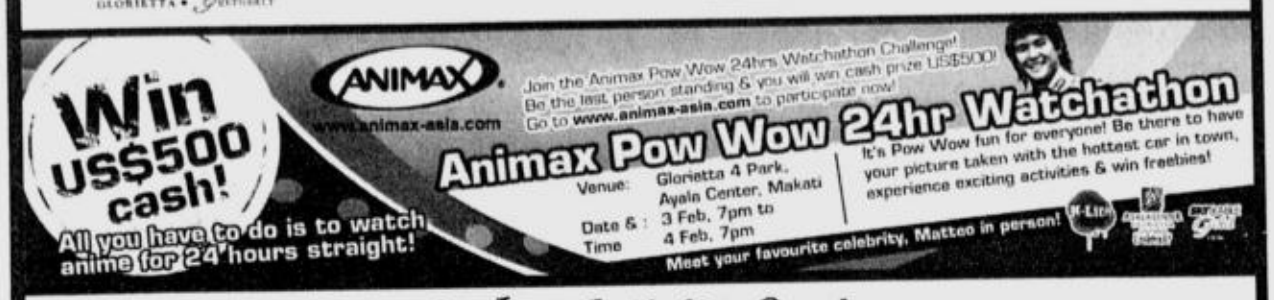

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2 ZATHURA 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	7 RUMOR HAS IT 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50
3 HALF LIGHT 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	8 THE MAID 1:25 3:35 4:45 7:55 10:00
4 UNDERWORLD 2 12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00	9 The Chronicles of NARNIA 1:30 4:20 7:10 10:00
5 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 2 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	10 JARHEAD 12:00 2:30 5:00 7:30 10:00

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1 ZATHURA 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	
2 HALF LIGHT 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50	5 The Chronicles of NARNIA 11:00 1:45 4:30 7:15 9.50
3 THE MAID 12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:20 10:00	6 UNDERWORLD 2 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00
4 CHEAPER BY THE DOZEN 10:10 12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00	7 DON'T GIVE UP ON US 11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

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The OMB challenge

From page A3-1

tional. In one raid in Quiapo, we brought along American observers. They used to complain that we were not doing enough. So we made them witness not just the raid but also the subsequent inventory. We confiscated more than one million discs in one day, the biggest retail raid in the world.

There was also an international report that said piracy in the Philippines decreased by six percent last year.

Is six percent a good figure?

No, definitely not. Since 1999, piracy had been increasing steadily, but for the first time, it went down last year.

In spite of all your efforts, how come there are still so many pirated discs out there?

Well, the dynamics have changed. At least 80 percent of all pirated material in the Philippines comes from Malaysia, Indonesia and China. With the help of the Customs bureau, we plugged all the entry points.

But now the pirates are working within the country, and instead of using P20-million replicating machines (stashed away in some warehouse, for instance), pirates can easily burn and churn out their products from home. They just use inexpensive burners attached to a personal computer.

Discs copied with burners are not as good as those copied with a replicating machine, though. So what we have in the market now are pirated discs of inferior quality.

Why not just bring down the prices of originals?

Actually, you can now buy original VCDs for P75 or P150. In China, Warner Bros. is selling top-of-the-line master DVDs for only $3. That's only about P150. If that [trend] reaches the Philippines, it'll give us a fighting chance against the pirates.

Have you heard rumors that some of the biggest pirates are industry bigwigs?

(Nods yes but, to the recorder, he says) I don't know anything about that. (Nods yes again and to the recorder:) That's not true (laughs). We hear those rumors, too.

Would you say joining the OMB is a big financial sacrifice on your part?

I came here without bodyguards, didn't I (laughs)? But it's not only I who have sacrificed. Everybody in the OMB has been really dedicated. During raids, we all put our lives on the line. There were operations when we had to be backed up by snipers because pirates were throwing stuff from the sixth floor of a building... Hadn't it been for General Marcelino Franco of the Special Action Force and General Arturo Lomibao of the Philippine National Police, we'd be in dire straits. They secure the site for us each time.

Any casualties?

We've had major injuries, like 30 stitches in the back of the head.

Did you think twice about accepting the OMB post?

Yes. I consulted many people.

Would you rather be doing something else?

I'd rather go back to school—I'm serious. My batchmates from La Salle are going back to school. I finished Economics in La Salle and was a practicing civil engineer in the United States when I was in the military. Now, I'd like to go to the Philippine College of Criminology. I just turned 50 and I'm going back to school! Who would have imagined? When I was young, I couldn't wait to get out of school.

Do you have plans of going back to TV hosting?

I have three offers right now. We'll see. I think the late-night talk show will push through before anything else.

What do you miss most about television?

Hosting is challenging. At the same time, you can have a positive effect on people.

Fun time: If you were to be stuck for 100 days in the Big Brother house, who would you choose as housemates—Vilma Santos, Maricel Soriano, Ai-ai de las Alas?

Hahaha! Them? I was thinking more of Rica Peralejo, Nikki Valdez, Gloria Romero, Aga Muhlach, Bayani Agbayani—my co-stars on "Okay Fine Whatever." Having *Tita* Glo would be a blast. People don't know the real Gloria Romero. Off-cam, she is so funny!

WHAT Edu would like to do at this point is to take up Criminology.

EDWIN BACASMAS

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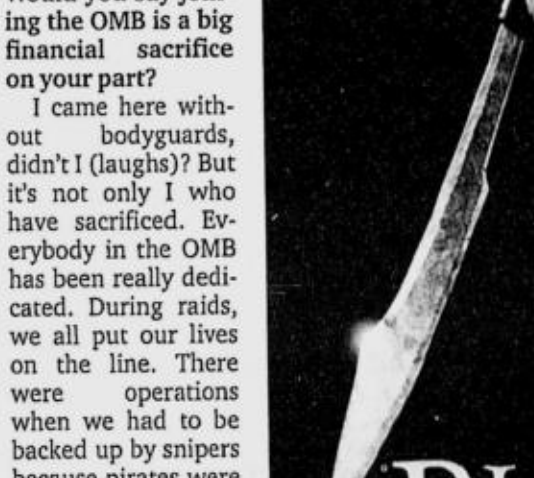

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An alternative view of piracy

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

THE CONVENTIONAL WISDOM IS THAT video, film and music piracy is bad for most everybody, except for the pirates themselves. That's why when raids conducted on pirates' dens are shown on the TV news, many people applaud.

Recently, however, we talked to some people (*not* the pirates) who advanced a different take on the issue of piracy, to the effect that they didn't think it was totally a bad thing.

Huh? That view flies in the face of all statistics and other evidence that show that piracy has grievously hurt the entertainment industry, helped account for the current slump in the movie business, and caused many show biz workers to get sidelined due to poor sales.

Still, the proponents of this alternative view defend their position by citing the argument of **technological progress.**

Where did **that** come from? They explain: technological innovations perforce result in adjustments made in the way relevant systems operate. When a new technological development comes along, things cannot be expected to remain the same.

Take the invention of the audio and video recorders: Owners of such machines are now allowed to make a copy of what they see or hear on records or on TV, provided that the copy is only for their personal use.

But others counter that the pirates' situation isn't the same. After all, it's clear that the many copies they make of other people's material **isn't** for the pirates' personal use!

So, they should pay royalties to the producers and owners of the original material because a lot of money and creativity has been expanded to produce it. Therefore, the pirates definitely can't copy it for free!

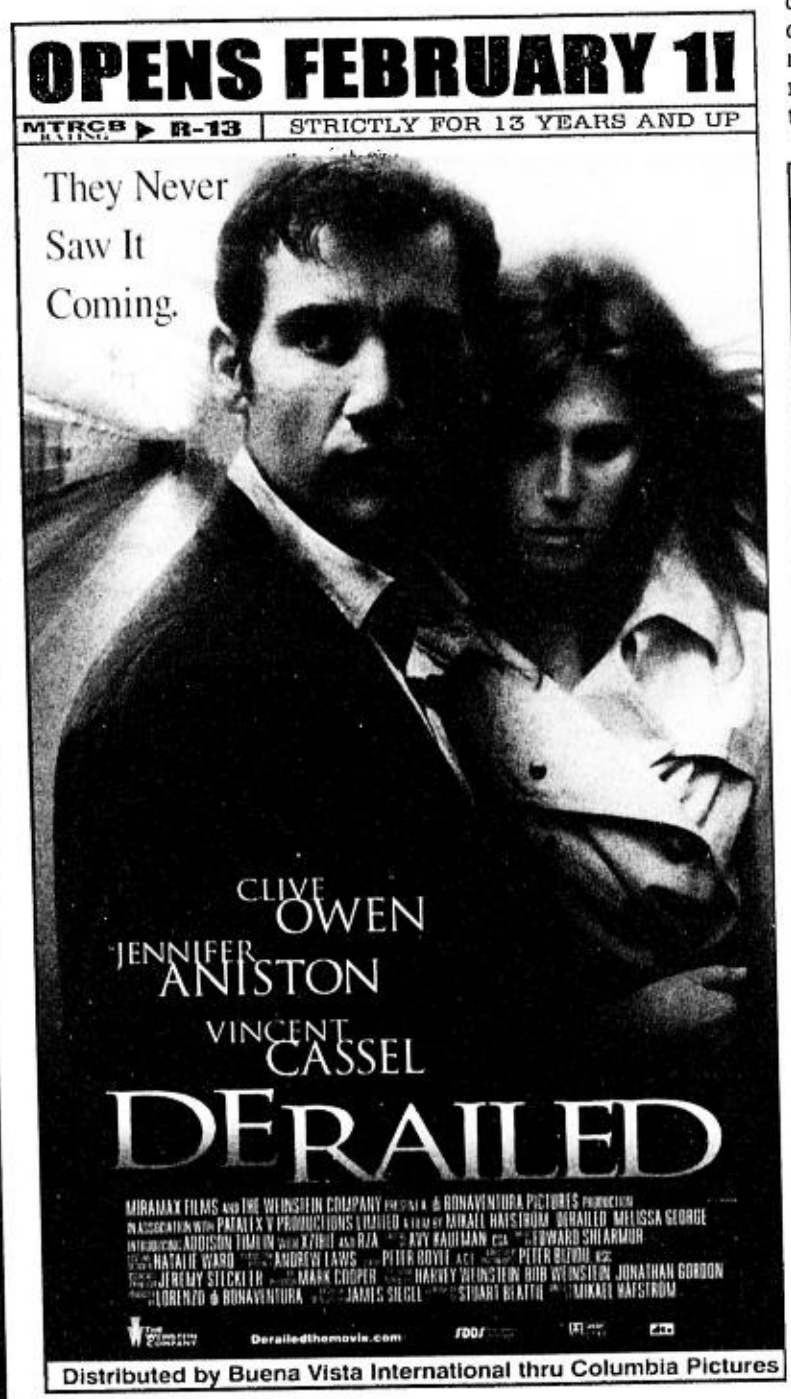
The proponents of the alternative view agree, **but** they point out that before piracy became rampant, producers of recorded entertainment material were charging too much for their products.

When the pirates sold their unauthorized copies for a pittance, producers were forced to lower their prices and reduce their profits. So in a sense, the buying public has benefited from the rise of piracy.

Proponents say that the benefit should be allowed to stay, even if or when the pirates shall have ceased their illegal activities.

We know that the problem is much more complex than that, but the discussion has been initiated.

May it be joined by a representative range of voices, so that the confounding situation can be resolved or at least mitigated with more enlightened action in the months to come.



After the success of **UNDERWORLD: EVOLUTION** that took **$27m** at the US boxoffice this weekend, the same distributor will release another action/horror flick **BLOODRAYNE** based on the popular **Majesco** video game for Xbox, Game Cube & PS2.

BLOODRAYNE, the half human, half vampire fighter, won the CYBER VIXEN OF THE YEAR award from MTV and SPIKE TV. The nominees included such heavyweights as Lara Croft of TOMB RAIDER, Alice of RESIDENT EVIL and Ayane of DEAD OR ALIVE.

The latest issue of the men's mag PLAYBOY will feature this famous video game vixen **BLOODRAYNE** posing in the nude.

The computerized **BLOODRAYNE** is part of the Playboy's video game preview, titled "Gaming Grows Up." The five-page section starts with a topless image of the title character from **BLOODRAYNE**," a leather-clad woman who fights with three-foot blades attached to her arms.

Then the next page will feature a full-frontal of **BLOODRAYNE**... hot and seductive.

These images even feature the signature Playboy centerfold-style bio. "We treated **BLOODRAYNE** just as if she were celebrity," Alexander said. "We treated her real, as if she has turn-ones and turn-offs."

Why is Kristanna famous?

With the announcement that Kristanna Loken was set to play the cyborg in Terminator 3, her stock rose faster than any tech company's ever did. Thanks to the T3 gig opposite Arnold Schwarzenegger, she is now the latest hottie to emerge from Hollywood.

Kristanna Loken on fighting Arnold the machine vs. fighting vampires in Bloodrayne:

"Well, it's a different sense of fighting. From the machine aspect in T-3 to the kind of bloody fights in **BLOODRAYNE**- there's something about vampires that because they appear human or slightly human is deceiving, like terminators. It's the same thing. So there was a little bit of a similarity I guess."

Kristanna Loken on BLOODRAYNE as her starring vehicle after T-3:

"I really wanted to choose carefully the next film after T3. I read a lot of scripts and honestly, I can't do any project that I'm not passionate about, that I don't think is meaningful or I don't think is going to affect people in a certain way. So if it doesn't affect me then I really don't want to be a part of it. This film, when I read, really affected me. And I knew I wanted to be a part of it." • *AP wire*

ADVT.

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Business Features Editor **Margie Quimpo-Espino**

Sunday BIZ

Making a mark in a man's world

(LEFT) Melba Acop as a student. (Right) Cuyahon today, general manager of the Calamba operations of Philips Semiconductors Phils. Inc.

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

MAKING HER MARK IN A MAN'S WORLD comes easily to Virginia Melba Acop-Cuyahon, general manager of the Calamba operations of Philips Semiconductors Phils. Inc.

After all, she had a lot of practice while growing up in a household Baguio where her father and two brothers were with the Philippine Military Academy.

Being the only daughter and the youngest did not grant her special privileges.

She had to do her assigned chores, make her bed, help her mother in her barber shop, take her turn washing the dishes, and ironing the clothes, just like her older brothers.

"My father always said that I would be on my own someday, so I needed to learn these things," Cuyahon tells SundayBiz.

But she learned more than just how to immaculately iron military uniforms.

It was in their home near the PMA where she learned the values of discipline, order and getting things done the right way.

She carried these values with her when she started working after getting her Chemical Engineering degree from the St. Louis University in Baguio.

Cuyahon recalls going to Manila and walking the length of Ayala Ave. in Makati City in search of a job. She even applied for a department manager position in a company that did gold plating, even if she was just 22 and fresh out of college.

"I was rejected," she says, "but I was called two weeks later and I was offered a cadet engineer position. I got it, but I told the person interviewing me that I would be a manager someday."

Her prediction came true just three months later.

She would achieve similar feats throughout her career, and it is rooted in her uncanny ability to meet targets she sets for herself, no matter how ambitious.

From the gold plating firm, she moved on to National Semiconductors, which set her off on a management career in the male-dominated world of semiconductors.

It was also thanks to the semiconductors industry that Cuyahon went to Europe for the first time, specifically in Germany where she was the only one of two Asians to be part of senior management.

In the two years she was there, she went to visit as many countries in Europe as she could.

But even Europe palled after a while, as she was suffering pangs of homesickness. She also thought that there should be more to life than going home to an empty apartment with no friends or family around her.

She informed her boss of her plans to go home, but he dissuaded her and instead offered her a post in Hong Kong.

Thinking that it was close enough to the Philippines, she moved and stayed there for another two years.

Still, she hankered for home.

"I think I am really not made for living abroad," she says.

Fortunately, her boss had a friend in the Philippines who helped her got a job with Philips Semiconductors in 1999. That marked the beginning of another chapter in her career.

Less than three years after, Cuyahon became part of the management team.

Under her leadership as general manager of Philips Semiconductors Calamba, which makes integrated circuits, operations had an export turnover of $735 million last year, and further cemented the Philippines' reputation as a world-class producer of semiconductors.

The company also became a competence center for Philips Semiconductors worldwide, which means that the Philippine operations, with some 2,400 employees, is ranked among the best Philips' manufacturing facilities across the globe.

She intends to keep it that way.

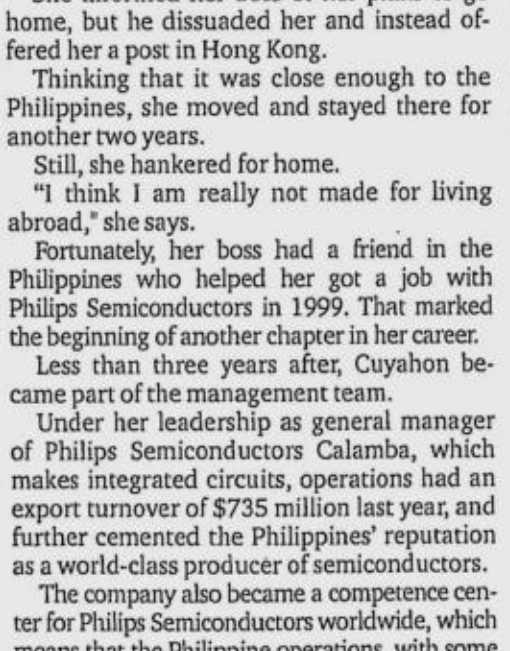
Cuyahon says one of her biggest challenges is to maintain the multinational semiconductor firms' belief in the Philippines.

"I always have to fight for our existence in the Philippines," Cuyahon says, "China is a threat because companies are always looking for a more cost-effective way of producing semiconductors."

She, however, says that by showing the world what the Filipinos can do in the world of semiconductors, more firms could be encouraged to invest in the country.

Cuyahon says elevating Philips' competency starts with making the employees believe that they have what it takes to do great things for themselves and for their company.

"What you can visualize, you can achieve," she says.



MELBA with husband, Jonathan Cuyahon, and daughter, Jessica

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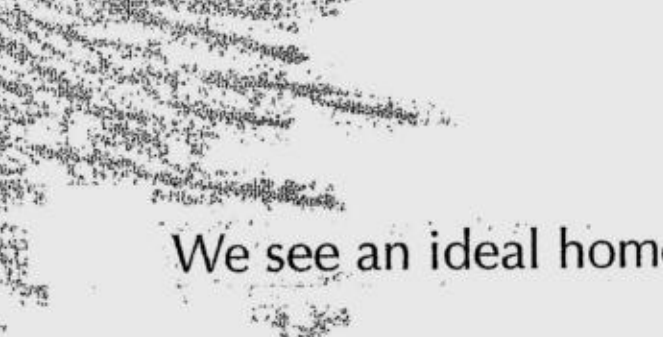

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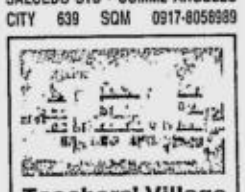

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LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that estate of the late RAMON S. JUAREZ, SR. has been settled by his heirs through final extrajudicial settlement executed by Juanito Saavedra Notary Public of Manila under Doc #2279 Page #57 Book # VI dated Jan 6, 2005 Manila IBP 634248 Jan 7, 2005 Pasig.
PDI-January 15, 22 &29, 2006

PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF LOSS

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Geraldine San Juan
June 10, 2003

Liza P. Castalone
June 7, 2003

Eva Maureen C. Cedano
June 5, 2003

Elizabeth U. Edrosolam
January 30, 2003

Veronica Y. Uy
December 31, 2002

Glicelda P. Galvez
April 28, 2003

Pamela Mulato Jacalan
March 3, 2003

Ma. Celia S. Risare
July 17, 2003

Anne Lorraine C. Yu
March 22, 2003

Clea Marie P. Yu
April 20, 2003

Cecilia A. Ramos
March 5, 2003

Mina Joy S.P. Santos
April 28, 2003

The public is hereby informed that as of the dates appearing under the names of the persons whose pictures appear above, they are no longer connected with **BEAUTY PROFILE CORPORATION OR FACIAL CARE CENTER (FCC), MARIE FRANCE BODYLINE INTERNATIONAL, INC., BIOLITE, INC., DERMAWELL INTERNATIONAL, INC., AND FACE AND BODY REJUVENATION CENTER, INC.** On December 15, 2005, in the case of Beauty Profile Corp., et al. vs. Geraldine San Juan, et al., Civil Case No. Q-03-51171, the Regional Trial Court of Quezon City, Branch 85 issued an Order of Partial Judgment ordering, the said persons ***"TO CEASE AND DESIST FROM BEING EMPLOYED WITH CLARA INTERNATIONAL AND/OR WITH ANY OTHER COMPETITOR OF PLAINTIFFS (BEAUTY PROFILE CORPORATION, MARIE FRANCE BODYLINE INTERNATIONAL, INC., BIOLITE, INC., DERMAWELL INTERNATIONAL, INC., AND FACE AND BODY REJUVENATION CENTER, INC.) UNTIL SUCH TIME THAT THE THREE (3) YEAR PERIOD IMMEDIATELY AFTER THEIR RESPECTIVE EMPLOYMENT WITH THE PLAINTIFFS SHALL HAVE ELAPSED AND/OR RUN ITS COURSE."*** The said Order of Partial Judgment also declared as VALID, the uniform employment contracts signed by the said persons, in particular, the non-competition clause prohibiting them from being employed with competitors of their former employers within three years after their employment. Any person who cooperates with, induces, or assists the above named individuals in not complying with the said order of the Honorable Court may be prosecuted or dealt with in accordance with law.

(PDI–January 29, 2006)

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2. Must be a Filipino citizen.
3. Must be a holder of a Master's Degree, but preferably with a Doctoral Degree.
4. Must have a proven track record as top administrator (at least managerial/professorial level), whether in public or private, for at least a period of five (5) years. This must be supported by a document (e.g., Certification or Special Order from the concerned party) stating the managerial, professorial and/or administrative experience and the period covered.
5. Must possess leadership and managerial skills within the purview of the needs, thrusts, goals and objectives of the college.
6. Must be of good moral character. Conviction of any crime involving moral turpitude or administrative charge shall be a ground for disqualification.

Note: Qualified applicants are requested to submit the following:

1. Formal Application Letter addressed to:
   Honorable Chair of the Board of Trustees
   Palompon Institute of Technology
   Palompon, Leyte
   Attention: The Secretariat
   Search Committee for Presidency
2. Detailed Curriculum Vitae and authenticated supporting documents
3. Applicant's Proposed Vision, Mission, and Development Plan of the College within a four-year period
4. Neuro-psychiatric Examination Result accomplished by a competent physician
5. Medical Certificate of Physical Fitness issued by a government physician from a regional medical center
6. Clearance Certificates (original) from the following:
   a. Ombudsman or Sandiganbayan
   b. Civil Service Commission
   c. National Bureau of Investigation
7. Accomplished CSC Form 212, under oath

Important: Interested applicants must send the above-mentioned documentary requirements in seven (7) sets/copies on or before **February 28, 2006** to any of the following:

MR. CELSO C. RAYMUNDO
Board Secretary
Palompon Institute of Technology
Palompon, Leyte

Office of Commissioner **NONA S. RICAFORT**
Commission on Higher Education
DAP Bldg., Ortigas Center
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

DR. MARIA RITA CASTILLON-ORTIZ, Ed.D.
Officer-In-Charge/Chair of the Search Committee
Commission on Higher Education Region VIII
Tacloban City 6500

(PDI-January 22, 29 & Feb. 5, 2006)

The Philippine National AIDS Council,
Department of Health,
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Anti-Retroviral Drugs (ARV) for HIV/AIDS are available and can be accessed from the following hospitals:

Hospital	Contact Person
San Lazaro Hospital (SLH) Rizal Avenue, Manila	Rosario Jessica T. Abrenica, MD Head HIV/AIDS Pavillion HIV/AIDS Core Team (HACT) Leader Tel. (02) 309-9528 to 29
Philippine General Hospital (PGH) Taft Avenue, Manila	Dominga "Ming" C. Gomez, RN HIV/AIDS Counselor, SAGIP Tel. (02) 526-1705
Research Institute for Tropical Medicine (RITM) Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Rosanna A. Ditangco, MD Research Chief/HACT Leader Tel. (02) 6261-705 / (02) 807-2628 loc 208
Ilocos Training and Regional Medical Center (ITMRC) Diversion Road, Cabaroan San Fernando City, La Union	Jeisela Gaerlan, MD Medical Specialist II / HACT Leader Tel. (072) 242-4058 / (072) 700-3808
Don Vicente Sotto Memorial Medical Center B. Rodriguez St., Cebu City	Consuelo Malaga, MD HACT Leader Tel. (032) 253-7564 / 263-9891 loc 151
Davao Medical Center J.P. Laurel Avenue, Bajada Davao City	Alicia Layug, MD HACT Leader Tel. (082) 227-2731

CD4 determination is done every Thursday at the STO/AIDS Cooperative Central Laboratory (SACCL) located inside the San Lazaro Hospital.

Contact Person: Dorothy Agdamag, MD
Medical Specialist II
Technical Advisor
Tel. (02) 309-9528 to 29

Patients may also inquire from Philippine NGO Council **(PNGOC), Global Fund AIDS Project** and look for Richard at Tel. Nos. (02) 832-3267, (02) 833-4067, (02) 854-6771.

ASSOCIATE LAWYER

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@ MASCO – 8403669 / 8130708

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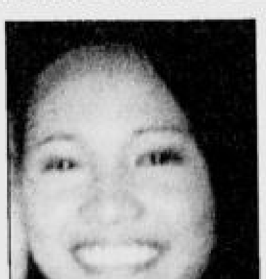
NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC


Edrin Tambong Floresca

The public is hereby informed that **EDRIN TAMBONG FLORESCA** whose picture appears above is no longer connected with **VEGA ENTERPRISES**, a one stop Industrial Supplier-Carry All Trading.

Presently she is facing criminal charges for QUALIFIED THEFT docketed as Criminal case no. 05-30908 pending before RTC-Morong Branch 78. Any transaction made through her will not be honored by the company.

(PDI - Jan 29, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to notify the public that **CHUOIRYOU ELDER CARE NETWORK SERVICES, INC.**, a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Republic of the Philippines with principal office at 301 GreenWorld Plaza, 79 Presidents Avenue, BF Homes, Parañaque City, Metro Manila is applying for a License with the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) to operate a Landbased Recruitment Agency. The names of its Incorporators/ Board of Directors and Officers are as follows:

NAMES	POSITION
MYRA N. YANGUAS	*President/Director*
AKIRA SHIMAMOTO	*Treasurer*
JONATHAN CAPUCHINO	*Director*
HITOSHI TAMURA	*Director*
MICHIAKI KODAMA	*Director*
DOMINADOR A. ESQUIVEL IV	*Corporate Secretary*

(PDI–Jan. 29, 2006)

nexus AUTOMOTIVE

A New Automotive Brand of Light Commercial Vehicles (SUVs, Pick-Ups, 4x2s, 4x4s, Vans), Trucks and Buses which will soon be launched invites applicants for

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Quezon City (Commonwealth, Quezon Ave., Balintawak, Libis), Mandaluyong (Shaw Blvd., EDSA), Fort Bonifacio Global City, Roxas Boulevard, Alabang, Marikina
Cavite, Laguna, Batangas, Legazpi

Ilocos Sur, Ilocos Norte, La Union, Baguio, Dagupan, Urdaneta
Tarlac, Cabanatuan, Pampanga, Isabela, Cagayan, Palawan

Tacloban, Mandaue, Bacolod, Iloilo
Cagayan de Oro, Davao and Zamboanga

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Republic of the Philippines
Province of Quezon
Municipality of Alabat
OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN
Second Agrarian Reform
Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

January 29, 2006
World Bank/IBRD Loan No. 7152-PH

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from International Bank for Reconstruction and Development towards the cost of the ARCDPII and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contract located at Barangay Angeles, Municipality of Alabat, Province of Quezon. The Bidding is open to all bidders from eligible source countries as defined in the Guideline: Procurement under IBRD Loan and IDA Credits.

The Municipality of Alabat, Province of Quezon and Implementing partner of DAR for ARCDPII invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the Rehabilitation/Construction of 2.35kms. Angeles-Sitio 3-Sitio Catmon Farm to Market Road under Contract No. RIRR 05 141 05 VIL-Q.

Project Duration	:	200 Calendar Days
Bidding Documents	:	PHP 5,000.00
Minimum Bid Security	:	PhP 155,000.00
Bid Closing Date	:	February 28, 2006 Time 10:00 AM.

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS

Item No.	Scope of Works	Quantity	Unit
10	Clearing and Grubbing	9,720.00	sq.m.
12	Roadway and Drainage Excavation	844.00	cu.m.
13	Structural Excavation	234.30	cu.m.
14	Embankment	8,683.00	cu.m.
20	Aggregate Sub-Base Course	1,272.00	cu.m.
21	Aggregate Base Course	972.00	cu.m.
31	Portland Cement Concrete Pavement	1,572.00	sq.m
43	Reinforcing Steel	16,755.60	kg.
44	Structural Concrete	176.06	cu.m.
50A	Underdrains (610 mm dia. RCP)	120.0	lm.
50B	Underdrains (1200mm dia. RCP)	8.00	lm.
51	Riprap & Grouted Riprap	112.50	cu.m.

Minimum Equipments Required

Bulldozer (1 unit)-owned; Road Roller Vibratory Compactor (9 ton min. 1 unit)-owned; Road Grader (1 unit)-owned; Loader (1 unit)-owned; Dump Truck (4 units)-owned; Backhoe (1 unit)-owned or lease; Water truck (1 unit)-owned;Bagger mixer (1 unit)-owned ;Concrete Vibrator (1 unit)-owned ; survey instruments- leased/owned

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by the interested bidders at the BAC Secretariat Office of the Municipality of Alabat, Province of Quezon starting January 30, 2006 from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. upon payment of a non-refundable fee of PhP5,000.00 for each set. Pre-bid conference will be held in the same address on February 17, 2006 at 2:00 PM.

Bids shall be valid for a period of 90 days after Bid opening and must be accompanied by a bid security of PhP 155,000.00 in form; Cash, Certified Check, Manager's Check, Bank Guarantee, on a free convertible currency, and shall be delivered to the BAC Secretariat Office, Municipality of Alabat, Province of Quezon, on or before the Bid closing date on February 28, 2006 at 10:00 AM, at which time the Bids will be opened in the presence of the bidders who wish to attend.

The LGU-BAC ARCDPII of Alabat, Quezon reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any defect or formality, assume no obligation whatsoever to compensate indemnity to the contractor/bidder for any expenses that they may incur in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest evaluated, responsive and complying bid.

(Sgd.) **ALEXANDER T. ANGELES**
Chairman, LGU BAC-ARCDPII

(PDI – January 29, 2006)

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation
A Global Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Heart

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID
ITB No.: 01-13-2006 ACF

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder:

Name of Project	:	One (1) lot Janitorial Service - Airport Casino Filipino Required Personnel: 107 Janitors
Approved Budget	:	Thirty Seven Million Four Hundred Fifty Six Thousand Three Hundred Eighty Five Pesos & 76/100 (P 37,456,385.76)
Contract Duration	:	Two (2) years Contract
Source of Fund	:	Internally Funded

Only contractors duly registered with PAGCOR shall be allowed to participate in the bidding. Unregistered contractors must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPD), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermita, Mla., Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the **Bid Documents** available for issuance **from January 18, 2006 to February 10, 2006** at the Branch Procurement and Property Office, Airport Casino Filipino-Parañaque City upon payment of a non-refundable fee of ***Eighteen Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Eight Pesos & 19/100 (Php 18,728.19)***. In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Receipt issued by our Cashier to the Senior Branch Procurement and Property Officer.

The schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*	
Pre-Bid Conference	January 31, 2006	(2pm)
Submission of Bids	February 13, 2006	(2pm)
Opening of Bids	February 13, 2006	(2pm onwards)

VENUE: Airport Casino Filipino, Parañaque City

PAGCOR reserves the right to disqualify any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PAGCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bidder or bidders.

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is *prima facie* evidence of collusion between appropriate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BBAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nullifies or tends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the BBAC is found to have failed to follow the prescribed bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address all communications to the Branch Bids and Awards Committee, Airport Casino Filipino, Parañaque City.

(Sgd) VALERIO SANTOS
BBAC Chairperson Airport Casino Filipino

(PDI – January 22 & 29, 2006)

HITACHI AIR CONDITIONING PRODUCTS (PHILS), INC.
NO. 1A, BINICTICAN DRIVE, SUBIC BAY INDUSTRIAL PARK, PHASE-II
SUBIC BAY FREEPORT ZONE, PHILIPPINES
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We are in need of applicants for the position:

PRODUCTION CONTROL DEPARTMENT MANAGER

Qualifications:

- Industrial Management Graduate
- Male, 32 – 40 years old
- At Least 7 – 10 years experience in Production Control and Export Management •
- An Experience in Air Conditioning or its related industry is an advantage.
- Knows how to speak fluent Mandarin

Qualified and interested applicants may send their resumé with NBI clearance, birth certificate and employment certificate to:

SBMA Labor Department,
Subic Bay Freeport Zone
Contact person: Estelito C. Aliño Jr.
Personnel Officer
Hitachi Air Conditioning Products (Phils.), Inc.

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

LUWEA C. SANTOS

Notice is hereby given to the public that **LUWEA "LOU" C. SANTOS** whose picture appears above, is no longer connected with RMCN Seafoods & Steaks Inc., Bankside Restaurant Group Inc., Manila Bean Food Group Inc., and Eight Pancakes Restaurant Group Inc. Therefore, any transaction entered by the said person for and on behalf of the above companies shall not be honored.

(PDI--Jan. 29, 2006)

Republic of the Philippines
TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
East Service Rd., South Superhighway, Taguig, Metro Manila

48th TESDA Board Meeting
10 November 2005, Thursday, 1:00 p.m.
7th Floor TESDA Board Room, Office of the Chair
Taguig, Metro Manila

Resolution No. 2005 – 19

Approving and Promulgating the Training Regulations for PC Operations NCII, Animation NCIII, Programming NCIV

WHEREAS, during the 42nd Executive Committee-TESDA Board Meeting held on 16 May 2005, the EXCOM-TESDA Board endorsed favorably the prioritization of the thirty-five (35) qualifications recommended during the Standards Setting and Systems Development (SSSD) TESDA Board-TESDA Secretariat Consultation Meeting which included the Information and Communication Technology PC Operations (IT User) NCII, Animation NCIII, and Programming NCIV;

WHEREAS, during the 46th TESDA Board Meeting held last 19 May 2005 TESDA Board Resolution No. 2005-09 "Prioritization of the Thirty Five (35) Qualifications for the Development of Training Regulations for Year 2005" was approved and adopted;

WHEREAS, during the 47th TESDA Board Meeting held last 4 August 2005 the Board approved TESDA Board Resolution No. 2005-14 "Prioritization of additional four (4) Qualifications for the Development of Training Regulations for Year 2005 (Masonry NCI, Jewelry Making NCII, Fish Capture NCII and Agri-Crops Production NCII)";

WHEREAS, the Board approved a total of thirty nine (39) priority qualifications under the Philippine TVET Qualifications Framework (PTQF) and hereby directed the TESDA Secretariat to undertake the development of training regulations;

WHEREAS, in the 10th and 11th Standard Setting and Systems Development (SSSD)-TESDA Board and TESDA Secretariat Consultation meetings held last 18 July 2005, and 23 July 2005, respectively, the Training Regulations formulated for PC Operations NCII (IT User), Animation NCIII, and Programming NCIV were presented and deliberated.

WHEREAS, the Training Regulations for PC Operations (IT User) NCII, Animation NCIII, and Programming NCIV were presented to the 12th Standard Setting and Systems Development (SSSD) Meeting held last 06 September 2005 and endorsed favorably to the 44th EXCOM-TESDA Board Meeting held on 27 October 2005 for TESDA Board consideration and approval;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, AS IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves and promulgates the Training Regulations for PC Operations NCII, Animation NCIII, and Programming NCIV;

BE IT RESOLVED FINALLY, that copies of the Resolution and Training Regulations (TR) be published and disseminated to all concerned and shall be effective fifteen (15) days upon its publication. All training programs under these training regulations must comply with the requirements of the abovementioned TRs. Graduates of TVET courses covered by the abovementioned training regulations shall be required to undergo mandatory assessment under the national assessment and certification system.

Adopted this 10th day of November 2005.

(Sgd.) **MR. ELMER K. TALAVERA**
Executive Director, Planning Office
Officer-In-Charge, TESDA Board Secretariat

Attested by:

(Sgd.) **SECRETARY AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO**
Alternate Chair, TESDA Board
Director General, Technical Education and Skills Development Authority

(Sgd.) **SECRETARY PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS**
Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
Chair, TESDA Board

(PDI–January 29 & 30, 2006)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

The public is hereby advised that as of December 31, 2005 the following sales counselors were terminated by **PACIFIC PLANS, INC.** due to various infractions:

Maridel Alegria
Gina Alvarez
Fidel Amoguis
Edgardo Bayeta
Jonith Buselak
Alicia Fe Chua
Leticia Dela Gracia
Maurin Domingo
Jeffry Esmino
Bremilyn Gaspar
Ofelia Gutierrez
Santiago Lived
Jeorge Peter Paul Manahan
Renato M. Ozoa
Rudivico M. Ozoa
Felixberto Rulona
Jenephier Serrano
Joel Serrano
Janet Sison
Armando Soriano
Perla Tabigue
Melody Zabala

The Company will not honor any transactions and/or dealings entered into by them as of said date.

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE AND DEVELOPMENT
Bids and Awards Committee

REQUEST FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST

The Government of the Philippines has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (WB-IBRD) towards the cost of the **Kapit-Bisig Laban sa Kahirapan-Comprehensive and Integrated Delivery of Social Services Project (KALAHI-CIDSS)**, and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this loan to payment of professional services under this Contract.

The Department of Social Welfare and Development which is the lead implementing agency for this flagship project of the government in fighting poverty now invites Individual Proponents for the hiring of KC Database Consultant who shall provide technical assistance on the KALAHI-CIDSS Project Information and Monitoring System (KC-PIMS). He/She shall be in-charge of the technical aspect maintaining KC-PIMS databases. He/She shall be responsible for updating and troubleshooting related databases of KC/PIMS. The database consultant shall also be involved in enhancing the PIMS and in developing other databases for KALAHI-CIDSS, as may be required.

The Database consultant shall:

- Under the supervision of the Knowledge Development and Information Consultant, provide technical service in the operation and maintenance of the KALAHI-CIDSS Project Information and Monitoring System (KC-PIMS). This would include troubleshooting, systems maintenance, data back up and recovery and other operations and maintenance procedures related to the KC-PIMS.
- Provide technical services in enhancements and improvements of KC-PIMS. This would include addressing existing and evolving information needs of the Project's Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Unit by extracting data stored in the KC-PIMS. In addition, the Database Consultant will be tasked, if and when needed, with the addition of new datafields to KC-PIMS and/or the creation of project related databases.
- Provide technical services in the manipulation of data stored in KC-PIMS and the development of related databases for monitoring and evaluation.
- Provide technical services in the maintenance and operation of KC-PIMS Website particularly its back-end database.
- Provide KC-PIMS-related capability-building and skills training for the KALAHI-CIDSS Project staff, when needed.
- Perform other related tasks

Individuals that have the following qualifications may submit Expression of Interest:

- Graduate of Computer Science or any related 4-year course
- At least 2 years experience in developing and programming databases with samples of databases developed either individually or as part of a programming team.
- Highly proficient and knowledgeable in the following database applications:
  - a MS Access
  - b MS SQL Server
- Highly proficient and knowledgeable in:
  - a Microsoft's ASP technology; and
  - b Visual Basic/VB Script
- Relevant training and experience, formal or informal, is a plus.

Interested Applicants may submit their **Application Letter and Comprehensive Resumé to the Bids & Awards Committee Secretariat** at 2nd Floor, DSWD, Batasan Pambansa Complex, Constitution Hills, Quezon City, with telephone number 951-71-16 until **February 6, 2006 at 12:00 p.m.**

(Sgd.) **ALICIA R. BALA**
Undersecretary and Chairperson, BAC

(PDI – January 29, 2006)

SPI TECHNOLOGIES FOUNDATION DONATES TO SCHOOLS

SPI Technologies Foundation has provided computer equipment and networking hardware for two public high schools in Dumaguete City. Taclobo High School has received 10 brand new desktop computers and hardware while Hermenegilda F. Gloria High School has received hardware for internet connectivity. The foundation has partnered with Gilas to provide internet access to 5,433 secondary schools in the Philippines. Together with SPI Technologies Foundation in this effort are Ayala Foundation, Innove Communications Inc., Gilas, and DepEd. From Left, Taclobo High School principal Dr. Evelyn Tejada, Innove chief administrative officer Racquel Cagurangan, and SPI Technologies Foundation executive director Lucy Aguila.

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Our dearly beloved
"Mommy"

CELY GAVIERES JABSON

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 25, 2006 at the age of 85.

Her loving children and family request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Capilla D, Arlington East the Garden Chapels, C. Raymundo Ave., Pasig City.

Mass of the Resurrection will be celebrated at the Immaculate Conception Cathedral at 1:00 p.m. on January 31, 2006.

Interment will follow at the Pasig Catholic Cemetery.

"Surely goodness and mercy will follow me all the days of my life, And I shall live in the house of the Lord forever."
— Psalm 23:6

Atty. Hermogenes 'Gene' F. Elfante

of Quezon City and Santiago, Ilocos Sur

Joined his Creator on 23 January 2006.

Loving husband to **Merita** (deceased); Truly missed by his children: **Hector** & **Nanette**, **Rae** & **Ging**, **Jane**, **Monette** & **Vicky**, **Nes** & **Lolit**, **Cherry** & **Danny**, and **Chona** & **Lito**; Much loved by his 17 grandchildren.

His remains lie in state at the Bahay Carmelo, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish Church, Project 6, Quezon City.

Cremation will be at Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City. Date shall be announced.

FRANCISCA (PAX) VILLANUEVA PAREDES

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on January 27, 2006

She is survived by her husband **Ansberto**; children **Jun** & **Nini Pantaleon**, **Alan** & **Mel Jimenez**, **Mita** & **Mon Dolor**, **Alex** & **Vangie Chico**, **Cecile** & **Turry Bello**, **Marivic** & **Rudy Mendoza**, **Bing** & **Bill Kierulf** & **Albert**; grandchildren, great grandchildren, brothers & sisters, and other relatives. They request your prayers for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Rizal Funeral Homes, Cementina St., Pasay City.

Mass will be held at the Sta. Clara Parish Church at 1:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 01, 2006 followed by cremation at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque at 3:00 p.m.

Our Dearly Beloved
Joey

Jose Raul A. Del Rosario, Jr.

Peacefully joined our Lord
on January 27, 2006 at the age of 41.

His bereaved wife **Jimila**; son **Angelo**; father **Raul** (deceased); mother **Teresa**; siblings **Marilou** and **Caloy**, **Gigi** and **Efren**, **Robert** and **Tet**, **Suzette** and **Johann**, **Eric** and **Michelle**, **Connie** and **Chris**, **Sito**; nephews, nieces, and other relatives request your prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at CHRIST the KING Memorial Chapel A, Greenmeadows Ave., Quezon City.

"... absent from the body to be present with the Lord."
2 Corinthians 5:8

Whoever finds his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it.
Matthew 10:39

"Come to me all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

CECILIO LAIGO ALBANO

of Dingras, Ilocos Norte
UPSILON SIGMA PHI & MASON

Peacefully joined his Creator on January 27, 2006 at the age of 61.

Much loved, he will be truly missed by family, wife **FE B. ALBANO**; children **JAMES** & **CECILE NALUPTA**, **ITOY** & **ME-AN PLACIDES**, **ERICK** & **PAM SEE**, **GENEBOY** & **MELANIE ALBANO** and **TONYPET** & **RACHELLE ALBANO**; grandchildren **JP**, **JAMIE**, **JILLIAN**, **ERICKA**, **MARIA FE**, **JESSICA**, **VERONICA**, **JULIA**, **ALEXIS**, **JOAQUIN** & **JERICHO**.

His remains lie in state at Nacional Memorial Homes, G. Araneta Ave., Q.C. and will be brought to Dingras, Ilocos Norte on January 31, 2006.

Interment will be on February 6, 2006 at the Dingras Catholic Cemetery.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

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❶ Copy of Death Certificate;
❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

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"I am the resurrection and the life, he who believes in me will live, even though he dies, and whoever lives and believes in me will never die."

ANTONIO "Nenen" FUERTE ADVINCULA

of Dumalag, Capiz

Died in the Grace of our Lord on January 27, 2006 at the age of 48, to join his Divine Father and his beloved parents, **JOSE FIRMALINO ADVINCULA** (†1989) and **CARMEN FALSIS FUERTE** (†1988)

His siblings: **Baybee** & **Rick Dimalanta**, **Dodoy** & **Nitz Pel**, **Msgr. Ben**, **Bishop Jose**, **Inday** & **George Grant**, **Dr. Ping**, **Mimi**, **Dr. Nonoy** & **Oric Feca**, **Dr. Nea** & **Edwin Fajardo**, **Cando** & **Fr. Petbong**, & his nephews & nieces: **Tweet** & **Joni**, **Jiggs**, **Toffee**, **Joseph**, **Joel**, **Jim**, **Dodie**, **Chantelle** & **Chris**, & other relatives & friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at the family residence in Dumalag, Capiz. Interment will be at Dumalag Cemetery on January 31, 2006, after the 2 p.m. funeral mass.

CLASSIFIEDS

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Maynila, Pilipinas

BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE
INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, through its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the hereunder project:

Name of Project	Supply of Services thru outsourcing of the following positions: 1) Three (3) General Clerks and Eleven (11) Data Encoders 2) Six (6) Skilled Workers
Approved Budget for the Contract	1) P1,160,000.00 or P10,000.00/month 2) P675,421.80 or P11,257.03/month
Contract Duration	Per BSP Terms of Reference

Prospective bidders should have undertaken similar project within the last two (2) years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security Performance Security, Pre-Bidding Conference(s), Evaluation of Bids, Post Qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulation (IRR).

The complete schedule of activities is listed, as follows:

Activities	*Schedule*
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	27 January – 10 February 2006, up to 2PM only
2. Pre-bid Conference	17 February 2006, 9.30 AM
3. Opening of Bids	07 March 2006, 2:00 PM
4. Bid Evaluation	These shall be in accordance with the prescribed periods allowed in the Implementing Rules & Regulations (IRR)-A of R.A. No. 9184 dated 10 January 2003
5. Post-qualification	
6. Notice of Award	

Bid Documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount equivalent to .05% of the ABC for each item or a minimum of P500.00 but not to exceed P50,000.00 to the BSP Cashier.

The BSP assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

The BSP reserves the right to reject any and all bid proposals, or declare the bidding a failure, or not award the contract, and makes no assurance that a contract shall be entered into as a result of this invitation.

(Sgd.) MELPIN A. GONZAGA
Vice-Chairman

(PDI – January 29, 2006)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP (492-06-001)

USAID/PHILIPPINES is soliciting proposals from firms who qualify through experience to provide up to two (2) years of **janitorial and housekeeping services** to USAID/Philippines. The contractor shall provide tools of trade, equipment and furnish direct labor personnel in the performance of required services. Work will be monitored by USAID/Philippines. The Contractor will be paid at fixed monthly rates as appropriate remuneration for services rendered by qualified personnel.

Contract Services are expected to begin on or about May 1, 2006 and end April 30, 2008 with options to renew the contract. A USAID direct contract will be awarded.

Detailed information about this solicitation is contained in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 492-06-001 which may be obtained starting January 30, 2006 from the Office of Regional Procurement, USAID/Philippines, 8F PNB Financial Center, Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP (492-06-004)

USAID/PHILIPPINES is soliciting proposals from firms who qualify through experience to provide up to two (2) years of **residential and warehousing services** to USAID/Philippines. The contractor shall provide tools of trade, equipment and furnish direct labor personnel in the performance of required services. Work will be monitored by USAID/Philippines. The Contractor will be paid at fixed monthly rates as appropriate remuneration for services rendered by qualified personnel.

Contract Services are expected to begin on or about May 1, 2006 and end April 30, 2008 with options to renew the contract. A USAID direct contract will be awarded.

Detailed information about this solicitation is contained in Request for Proposal (RFP) No. 492-06-004 which may be obtained starting January 30, 2006 from the Office of Regional Procurement, USAID/Philippines, 8F PNB Financial Center, Diosdado Macapagal Boulevard, Pasay City.

Partners bet on FORTUNE COOKIES

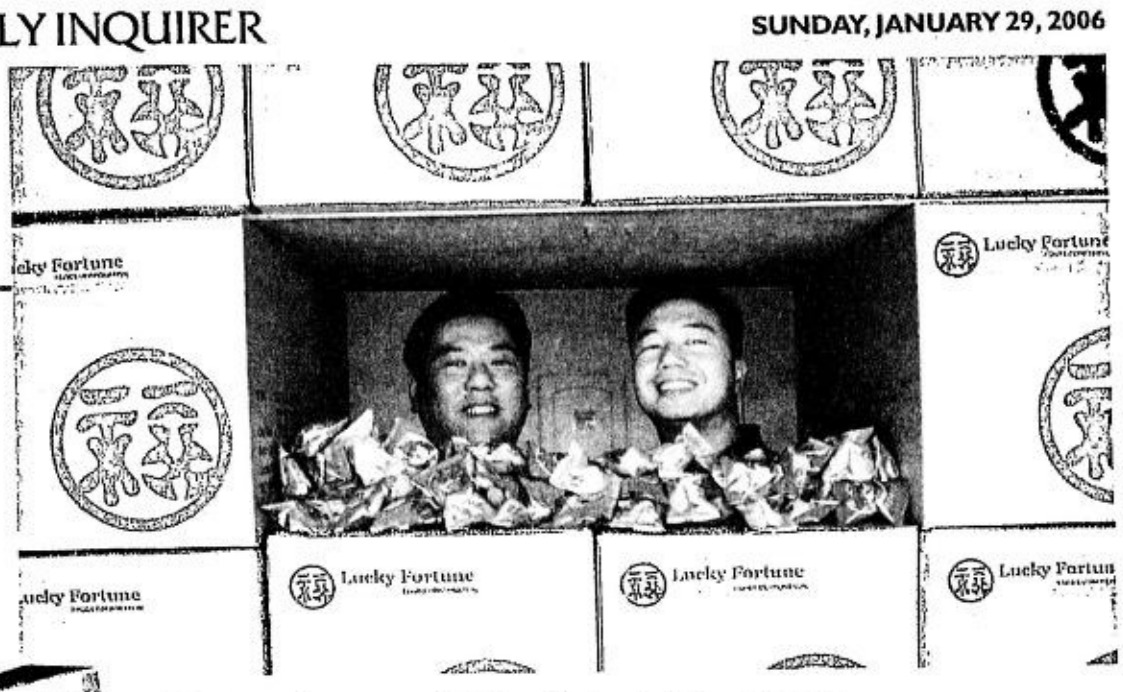
By Doris C. Dumlao

WHEN PINOY BOXING champ Manny Paquiao was about to face Mexican idol Marco Antonio Barrera in Las Vegas last year, he brought fortune cookies from the Philippines and broke one out prior to his match.

Fortune cookies, which resemble the boat-shaped ancient Chinese gold ingots, are each imbedded with a strip of paper containing a prediction, lucky number or aphorism, either thought-provoking or outrightly amusing. First popularized in the United States, these are now available in the local market and have become a "Kung Hei Fat Choi" giveaway.

As recounted by Paquiao himself, his fortune cookie had spoken of good tidings. True enough, his rival was bludgeoned in all of 11 rounds and Paquiao was able to bring home the "People's Champion" belt given by Ring Magazine, the world's most respected boxing magazine.

Paquiao didn't even mention the fortune cookie brand but thirtysomething Chinese-Filipino entrepreneurs Eduardo Escaño and Rodney Yu—the duo behind the "Gold Coin" brand of fortune cookies swear was one of theirs as their firm, Lucky Fortune Foods Corp., is the country's first and only commercial manufacturer of the cookies.



THE PACKAGING does not use the traditional Chinese colors. (Above) The lucky duo, Ed Escaño and Rodney Yu.

Sailing to the mainstream

Fortune cookies used to be found only in a few Chinese restaurants. Or seen in Hollywood movies. This delicacy was immortalized, for instance, in a 1966 film "The Fortune Cookie" starring Jack Lemmon and Walter Matthau.

Lucky Fortune has yet to go full-blast with its domestic promotions, but the duo say the "Gold Coin" cookies are hot products during the months of December, January and February. Barely a year after the product was launched, the company's plant in Cainta now operates at full capacity 24 hours a day to cope with huge demand this peak season.

Business has become brisk towards the run-up to the Chinese New Year such that its lone machine—which could churn out about a million fortune cookies in a month—is no longer enough. Lucky Fortune, which expects sales to double this year, has thus ordered another machine from abroad to step up production. After all, the company has started exporting to South Africa.

The idea of making a business out of fortune cookies occurred to Escaño while watching "Unwrapped" in the Food Network. He broached the idea of mass producing the cookies to Rodney, his best buddy since grade school.

Escaño, a lawyer by profession, prepared the legal requirements to put up the business while Rodney, who's already into the businesses of feed additives and lighting fixtures, drafted the long-term business plan.

Lucky Fortune was incorporated in December 2003 but it took them several months to come up with the prototype. First, they had to put up a manufacturing plant and get the machine. A dry run was done in late 2004 but actual selling started only last year. The idea is to popularize the fortune cookies to a broad market.

Based on their research, the fortune cookie was not a Chinese concept but an American creation inspired by the Chinese mooncake, which were used by rebels to transmit secret messages during the Mongolian occupation of China.

The mooncake was, in turn, brought by Chinese immigrants to the United States to work on the railroads during the gold rush.

The "Gold Coin" fortune cookies are now packaged in nice yellow and pink boxes that don't look Chinese at all. It comes in two flavors—vanilla and strawberry.

Sixty percent of their fortune cookie messages represents original lines, mostly written by Rodney himself.

Marketing and diversification

Rolling out Lucky Fortune's business plan, like most other fledgling enterprises, was a series of trial and errors. At first, the two thought their primary market were the Chinese restaurants in the Philippines.

Going mainstream—or selling through a wider distribution network such as groceries, convenience stores and mom and pop stores—was only second on their list of markets.

Unfortunately, a number of Chinese restaurants thought giving away fortune cookies, was an added expense.

So Lucky Fortune is now steering its flagship "Gold Coin" cookies to the mainstream, tapping selected retailers. Distribution outlets are currently limited but the response good.

The company also uncovered a big market from corporate accounts, as many found the cookies useful for advertising and promotions. For instance, cosmetics company Avon ordered fortune cookies with the company's specialized message to its agents and distributed them to a nationwide sales convention.

Lucky Fortune also diversified its product line through a merger with a firm which made the Dealo brand of lady fingers (also known around the world as Boudoir biscuits, sponge biscuits, sponge fingers, Naples biscuits, Savoy biscuits and biscuits a la cuiller).

The firm is based in Lucban, Quezon, and has long produced lady fingers for export to Canada, US, Switzerland and Germany. The duo saw a synergy with the enterprise, owned by the family of Escano's colleague Jennifer Fajelagutan, and absorbed its operations.

Dealo fits into Lucky Fortune's strategy of selling unique food products. Dealo's lady fingers come in different flavors.

Lucky Fortune sees itself becoming a major producer of novelty foods products in the next five years with the "Gold Coin" fortune cookie as its banner product.

"We'll be the largest producer of fortune cookies. We'll be fortune cookie tycoons," Escano says in jest.

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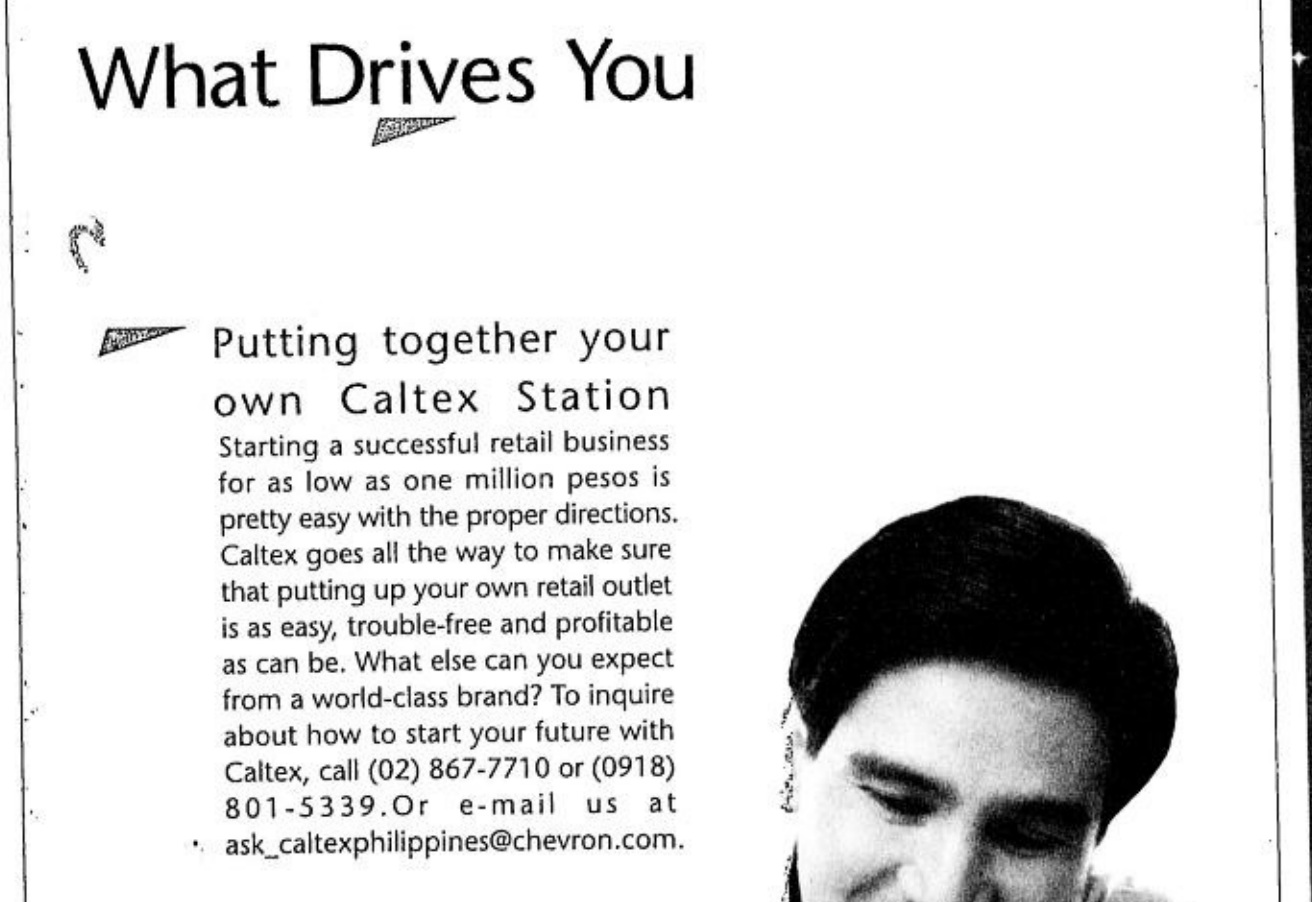
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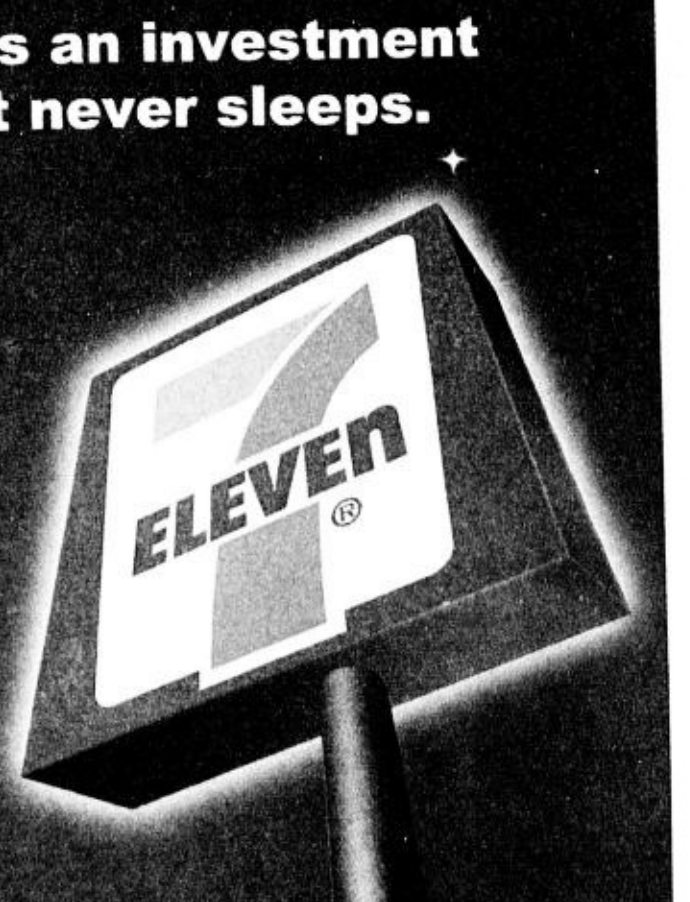

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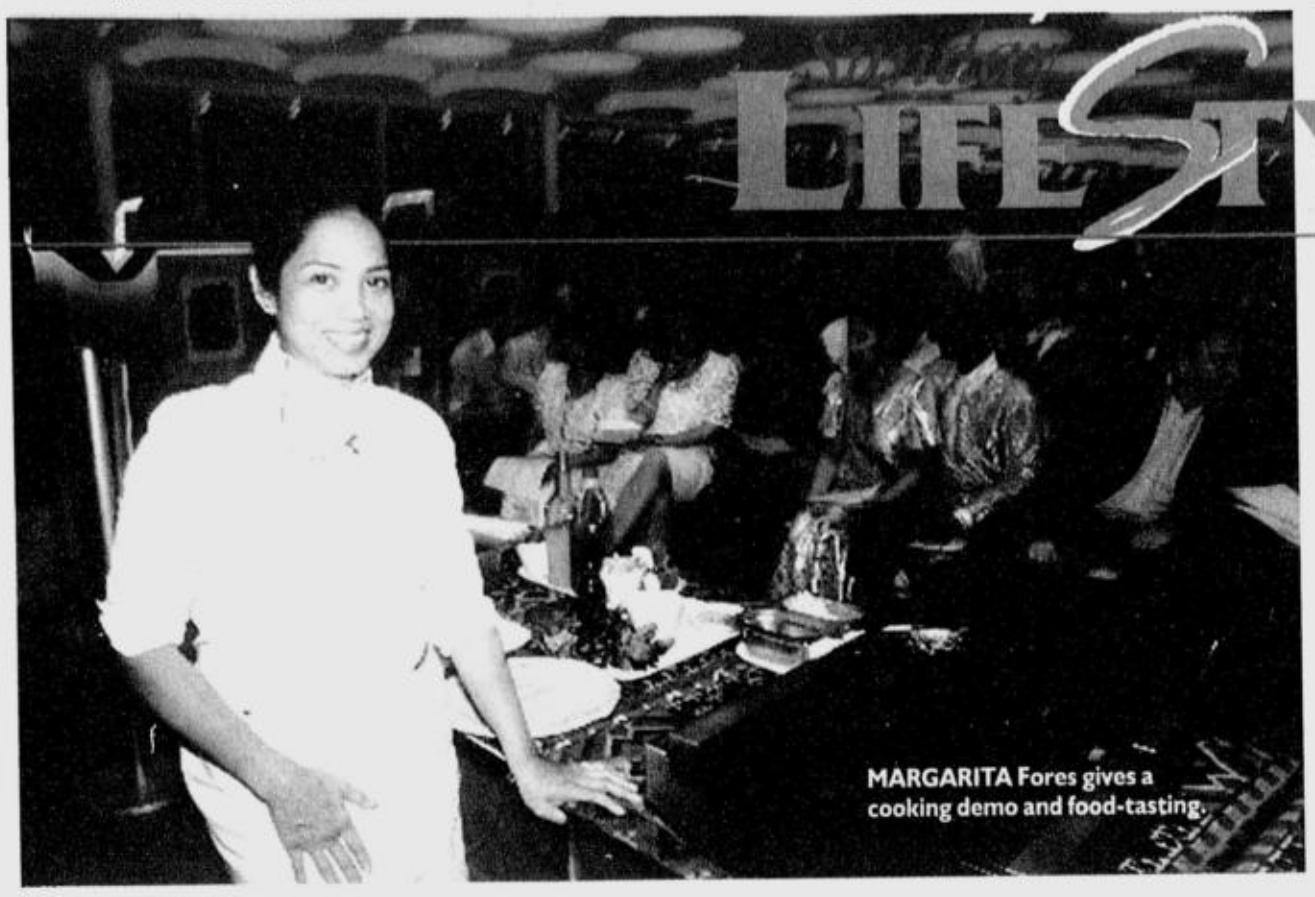
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

All-Pinoy happening in Edinburgh

Guests feasted on 'kesong puti' and 'adobo,' and bidded for Pilapil, Lao, Drilon and Baldemor artworks



MARGARITA Fores gives a cooking demo and food-tasting.

By Karla P. Delgado
Contributor

TOP CHEF MARGARITA Fores flew in for it. Designer Amina Aranaz had her coveted bags auctioned for it. And leading visual artists Impy Pilapil, Lao Lianben, Manny Baldemor, Rock Drilon and Claude Tayag sent their artworks all the way to Europe for it.

A contemporary Filipino art, food and culture extravaganza, ConTempo@HarveyNichols attracted Philippine talent from all over the world. Paris-based painters Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi, Gaston Damag and Joon Claudio had their work on exhibit at the top British department store. So did Filipino-Catalan artist Valeria Cavestany and Manila-based photographers Neal Oshima, Miguel Fabie and Dulzzi Gutierrez. Damag is the only Filipino whose work is housed in the Musee d'Art Moderne in Paris.

Late last year, as Manila was awash in the Christmas spirit, students at the University of Edinburgh took the spirit of giving to another level. ConTempo was organized "to incorporate all aspects of modern Filipino art and culture in a refreshing and original exhibition." Artworks were donated for auction, with "full proceeds going directly to the Centre for Filipinos," a London-based organization which looks after the welfare of Filipinos living and working in the UK.

The Filipino community in Edinburgh not only attended in full force but gave their full support, gamely participating in an impressive dance performance. The *pandango sa ilaw* mesmerized the audience, while the *tinikling* broke the ice as guests joined in and got their feet caught between the bamboo poles.

Margarita Fores was the hit of the evening, warming the crowd with her Ilongga charm and winning them over with her *kesong puti* and *bihod* (fish roe in garlic and olive oil) appetizer and chicken *adobo*.

Grand folk welcome

Drawing much admiration at the entrance was a two-meter high *buri* and *nito* lamp by Bicolano artist Renato Vidal. Luminous under the mod lights of Harvey Nichols were the embroidered wedding gowns of Mamerta Legaspi Lagrosa.

The bar was dressed up with glasses of kumquats, limes, cilantro and other exotic greenery waiting to be filled with cocktails concocted especially for the evening by the venue's fashionable bartenders. Two standouts, as impressive for their names as their potency, were Thrilla in Manila and Kumquat Caipirinhia.

First to sell among the artworks were the paintings of Ofelia Gelvezon-Tequi, Pep Manalang and Briccio Santos.

Sparking a bidding war were the eye-catching bags of Amina Aranaz. Coquettishly put together with materials like mother-of-pearl, coconut shell, wood, sparkling crystals, luxurious fabrics and leather, the bags made a splash at their British debut. Egged on by attractive emcee James Rodini, who coyly offered to strip, guests scrambled to outbid one

ALL-PINOY/ C2

BAG designer Amina Aranaz

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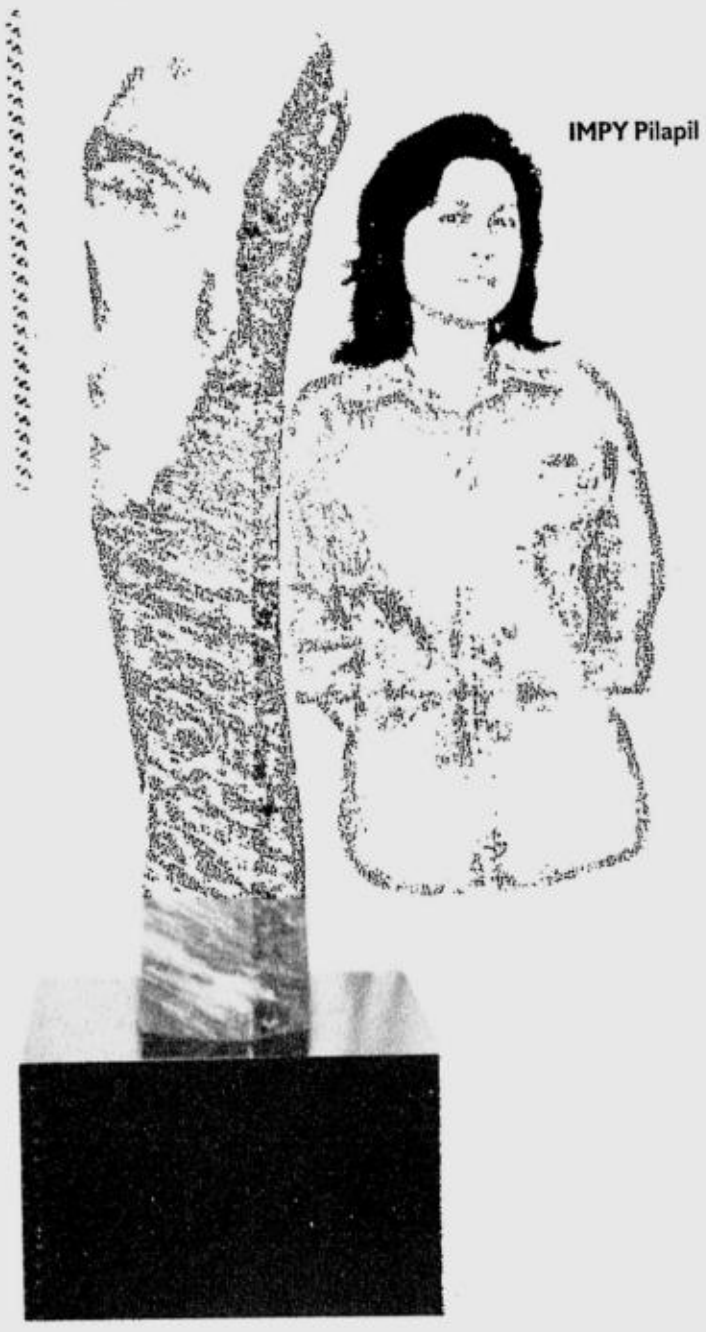
CONTEMPO organizer Bianca Santos with Victoria Soutter and other members of the Filipino community in Edinburgh

MEMBERS of the Filipino community in Edinburgh gamely dance.

All-Pinoy happening in Edinburgh



IMPY Pilapil

From page C1

another for the handcrafted sensations.

Fun was had by all and money made for an organization with a worthy cause. The Centre for Filipinos provides Filipinos in the UK with practical information on immigration, employment, health and housing. Valuable services such as career guidance, counseling and job interview workshops are offered. Laudably, the Centre also promotes Philippine history and culture among Filipino youth groups.

ConTempo was the brainchild of University of Edinburgh student Bianca Santos and her aunt, the late Philippine Tourism Attache, Catalina Santos Dakudao. The event was made possible with the support of NYK-Fil Japan Shipping, British Airways, The Lyncliff Hotel, Tesoro's and Sari-Sari.

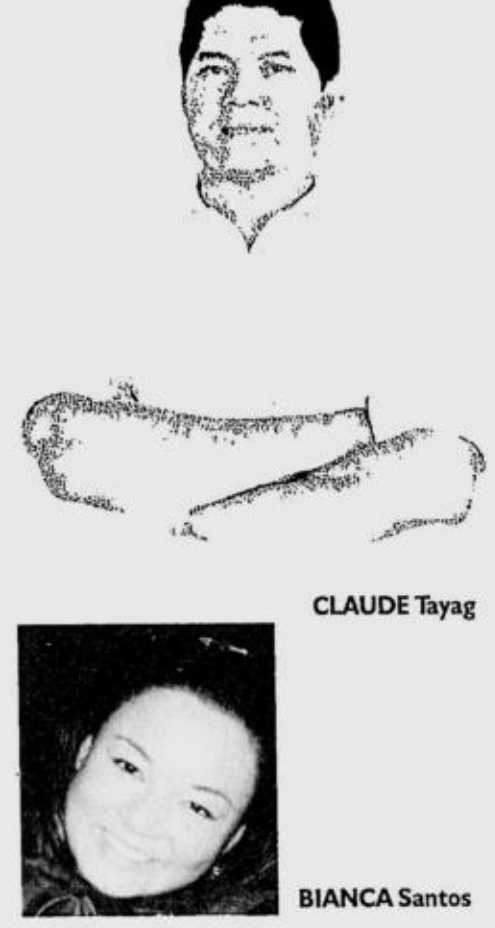
The dedication shown by University of Edinburgh students was nothing short of extraordinary. Leading the organization of the event with Bianca Santos were Clare Daly, Cem John, Ben Baseley-Walker, Erika Widegren, James Roditi, Lisa Quiles and Sarah Sousa e Sa. Cem Usten, Adrien Amzallag, Greg Pictet, Nat Everhart, Christina Clark, Fran Green and Henriette Folkestad formed the support team. Deserving mention for logistics were brothers George and Alex Green.

The University of Edinburgh has accepted an offer of donation from Impy Pilapil. The sculpture will be erected in the university grounds, serving as a symbol of cultural diversity and understanding, and as a permanent marker of the Philippines in the city of Edinburgh.

Collectors of Philippine art in the UK will be interested to know that the Centre for Filipinos will auction all remaining artwork from ConTempo at its annual auction.

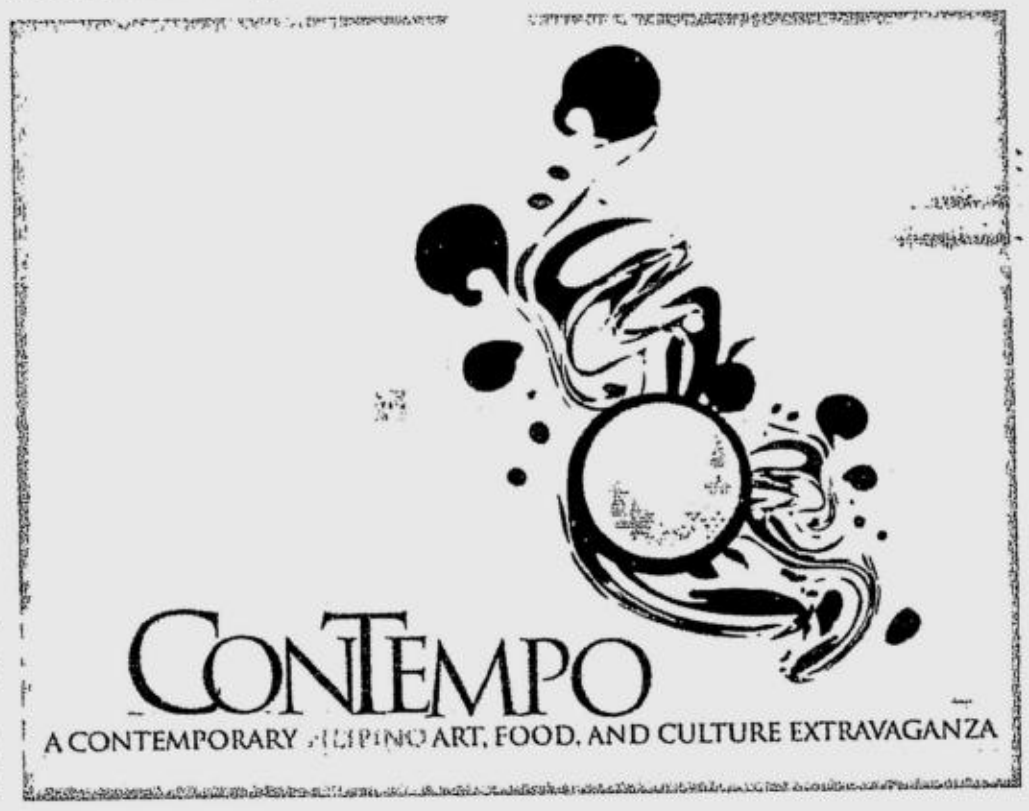
For more information on ConTempo and the Centre for Filipinos, please visit www.teamcontempo.com and www.centreforfilipinos.org

ONE of the Amina Aranaz evening bags which sparked a bidding war

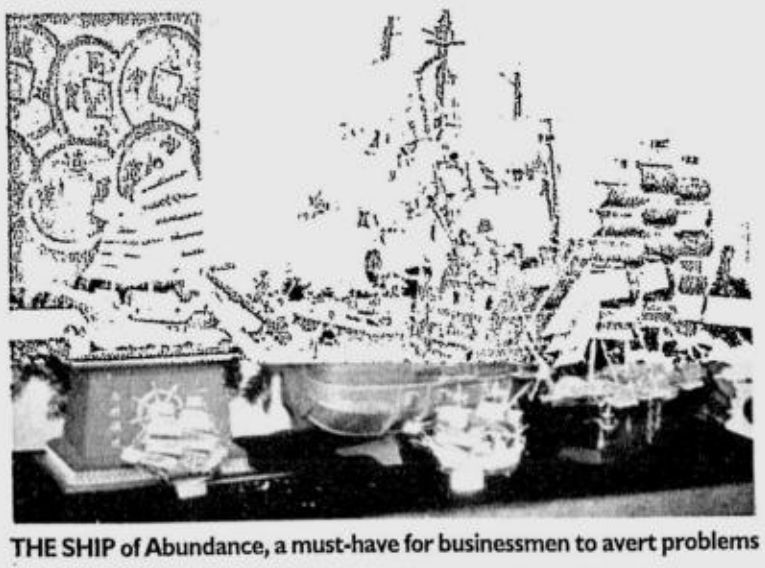


CLAUDE Tayag

BIANCA Santos



Welcome the Fire Dog with charms and food



THE SHIP of Abundance, a must-have for businessmen to avert problems

THE PODIUM AND THE WORLD of Feng Shui usher in the Year of the Dog with great gifts and great ways to celebrate.

Maritess Allen, feng shui expert and owner of the Philippines' first World of Feng Shui Boutique at the Podium, says that blue, black and green are the year's lucky colors. Wearing these colors at the start of the year signals a good beginning.

Allen, a graduate of the Lilian Too Institute of Feng Shui, says the Fire Dog year might bring good luck in business and an end to the disasters that marked the Year of the Rooster.

Some suggested gifts of luck from the World of Feng Shui Boutique are Wish Fulfilling Wheel, Five Element Pagoda, Crystals (clusters, lotus, globe and diamonds), Coins (Ang Pao and Tai Soi), Golden Wu Lou, Pi Yao, and Ship of Abundance.

The Podium's specialty restaurants also have special offerings to celebrate Chinese New Year. Until Feb. 12, diners at Crustasia Crab and Seafood House can have free appetizers, spring rolls and desserts such as Thai Halo Halo and Vietnamese Pandan Cake with every P1,000 purchase. Other restaurant specialties are Szechuan Crab, sweet, spicy and gingery crab sautéed in Szechuan sauce, Vietnamese Paella, and Grilled Visayan Red Snapper.

Banana Leaf offers Chinese Turnip Cake Noodle, Vietnamese Prawn Balls and Tilapia Fillet with Asamsanthal Sauce.

Master's Wok has a special promo of P99 for frozen dim sum for Chinese New Year. Other house specialties are Stuffed Prawn with Shrimp Ball, Crab with Sticky Rice and Stuffed Bean Curd with Minced Pork.

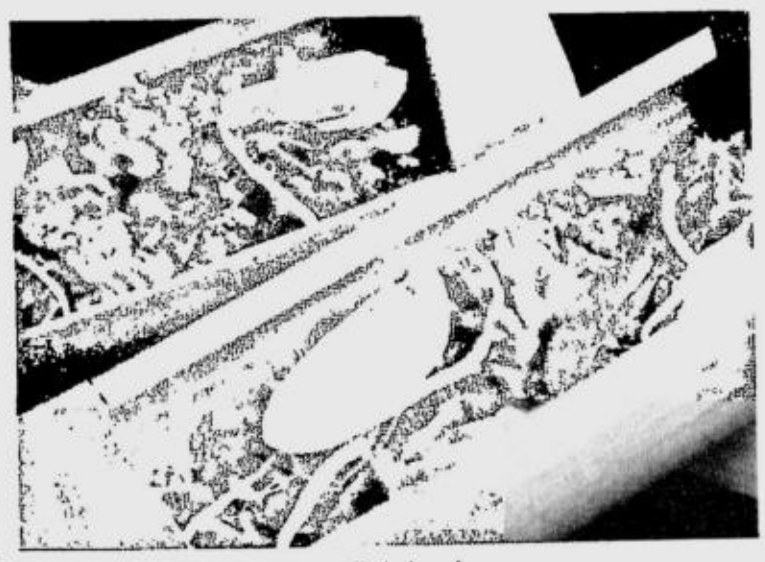
Other Podium favorites are Lob Mao's Hainanese Chicken with Fragrant Rice, and China Star's Honey Garlic Ribs, Fried Codfish with Spicy Garlic Sauce, Citrus Prawns, Lobster Globe, and Spinach Dumplings.

As part of this year's celebrations, the book "Tsinoy, the Story of Chinese in Philippine Life" was launched recently. A project of Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran, the 268-page book traced the Chinese migration and settlement in the Philippines and chronicled the crucial roles the Chinese played in Philippine history.

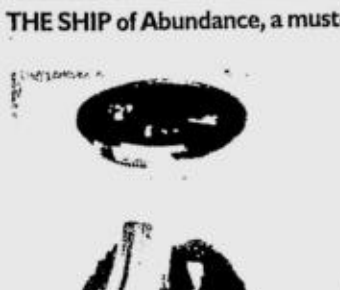
Prominent Tsinoy Teresita Ang See was guest speaker. In conjunction with the book launch, a one-day exhibit of rare photographs of early Chinese immigrants was mounted showing their influence and impact on Philippine life.

Ang See shared interesting Tsinoy trivia with the audience like the origin of many contemporary words like *pancit*, as well as the origin of Manila Chinatown street names like Ongpin.

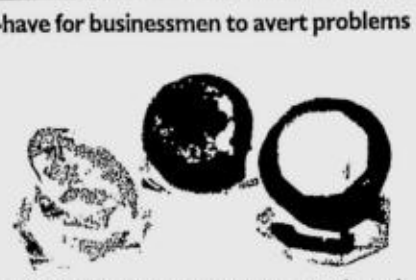
Celebrate Chinese New Year at The Podium!



CRUSTASIA'S Vietnamese paella in bamboo

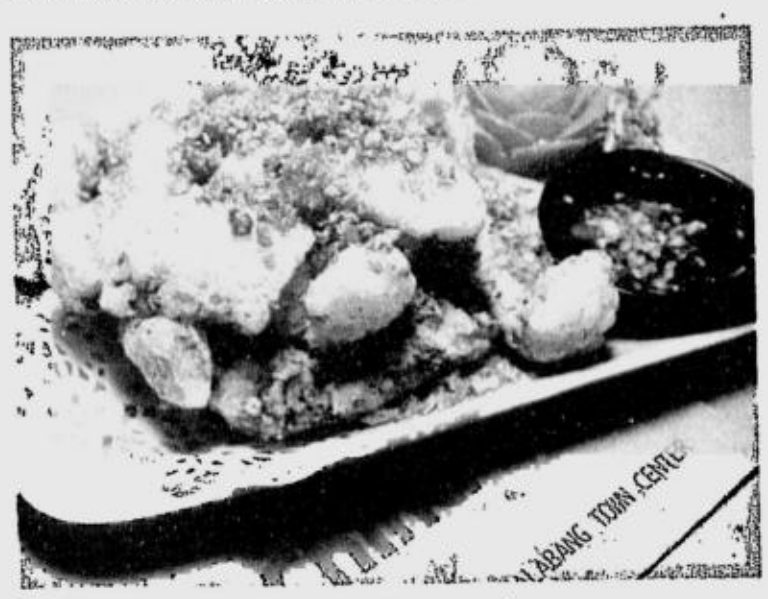


GOLDEN Wu Lou beside the bed protects against illness.

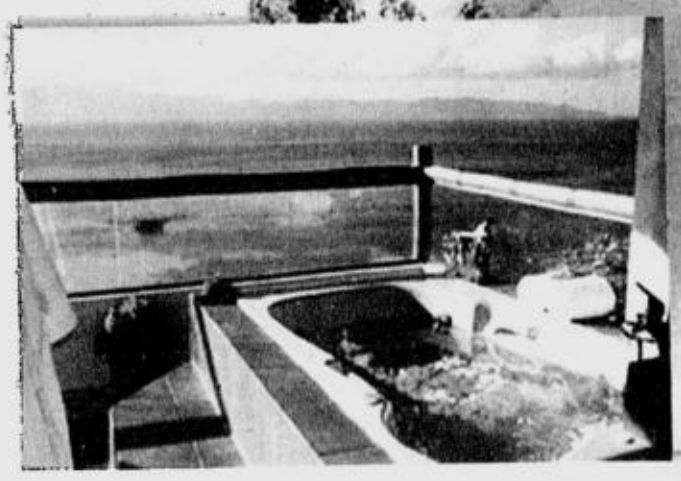


CRYSTAL diamonds to give work and popularity a boost

DOUBLE-HORNED rhino to protect against loss and injury



CHINA Star's pan-fried codfish with spicy garlic sauce



SMART Infinity Makes waves in Nami

Few places can match the five star treatment Nami Resort in Boracay has to offer. With newly revamped interiors, gone is the rustic island ambiance in favor of a more streamlined, contemporary look and feel. Rooms now sport new colors complemented by more soothing, stylish shades. The famed two-person whirlpool hot tubs on the verandas still beckon at even the most seasoned traveler, offering them spectacular views of the famous Boracay sunsets. And with a new vastly expanded deck, Nami guests can relax, enjoy cocktails and bask under the sun while listening to the sound of the sea down below.

SMART Infinity launches 2006 Planner

SMART Infinity begins the year in this paradise setting and launched its 2006 Infinity Nami Planner. These were given away with compliments to guests who were living it up in Nami's lap of luxury—the Nami Year 4, an annual tradition timed to celebrate the birthdays of a large group of Nami friends and supporters. By simply being a SMART Infinity subscriber, you too can enjoy the kind of special treatment Nami has to offer.

Nami's SMART Infinity Lounge

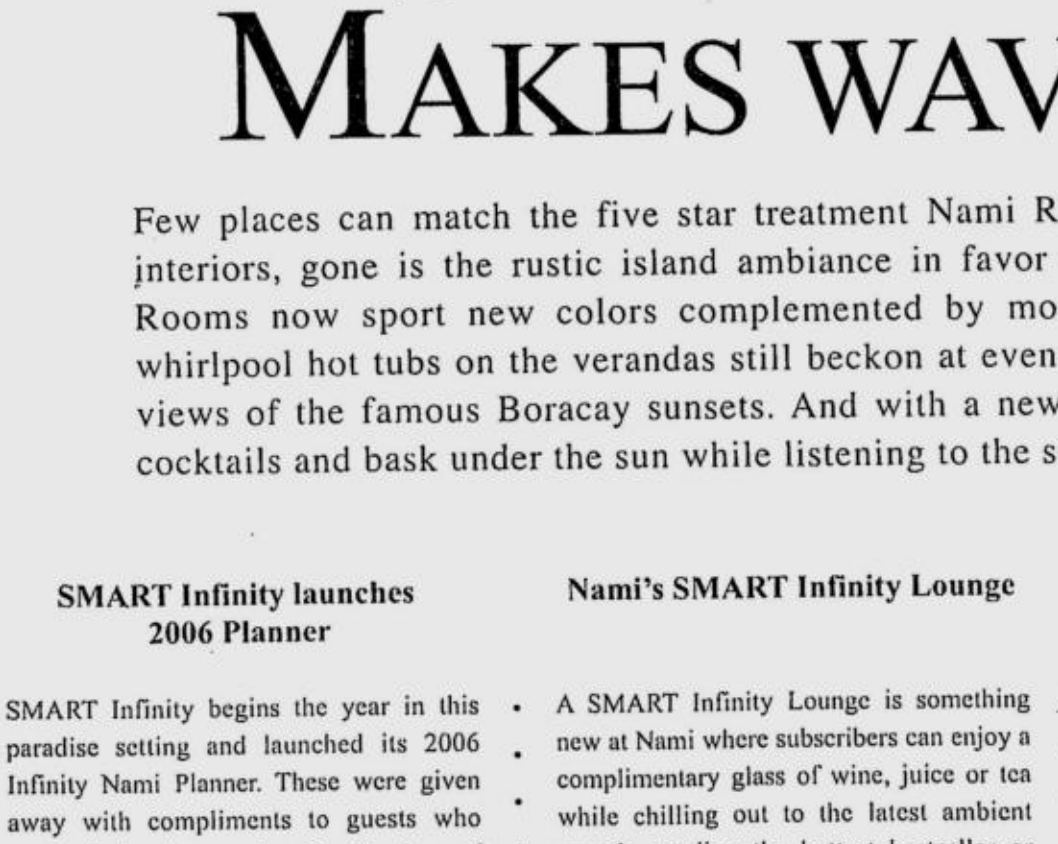
A SMART Infinity Lounge is something new at Nami where subscribers can enjoy a complimentary glass of wine, juice or tea while chilling out to the latest ambient sounds, reading the hottest bestseller or browsing through a favorite magazine. Add to this a 50% discount on appetizers and drinks from 4pm to 7pm and you have the ultimate island lounge to kick back in and truly enjoy life's best.

Making the Most of the Infinity Privilege Card

Because SMART Infinity is the only wireless brand that pampers you like no other, it only partners with the best resorts life has to offer. You too can own an Infinity Privilege Card and experience the beauty of Nami just by signing up for a SMART Infinity Plan. And it doesn't end there. More privileges await you at various high-end shops, hotels, salons and recreational establishments across the nation. To learn more about the privileges that await you, you can download the "privilege menu" and check your privileges by texting PRIVILEGES and sending it to 211. Needless to say, the SMART Infinity Privilege Card is truly one of the finest ways to enjoy life's best.

Infinity's Privileges in Nami 2006

On top of that, SMART Infinity subscribers need only show their privilege card to avail of great deals and discounts. Throughout the year, subscribers can enjoy 35% off on published room rates. And for 2006, Nami has a whole new slew of exciting offers lined up for Infinity subscribers. From a complimentary bottle of sparkling wine to a complimentary Swedish massage session for two, there's something to suit everyone's taste. You may opt to avail of a discount on all items in the Manami boutique, which is filled with carefully selected fashion and novelty items, or enjoy a complimentary Nami signature dessert whenever you dine at Nami. Or spoil yourself by holding your wedding at the resort and get complimentary overnight accommodations for two! Other special offers include a free skin care travel kit from Shu Uemura when subscribers visit the Nami Infinity Lounge, a complimentary Filipino hand and foot scrub, a special gift for every minimum purchase of P2,000 at Nami outlets, a complimentary Nami Authentic Filipino CD and a romantic dinner at the Nami deck.



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Ikebana workshop Feb. 21

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PROFESSOR NOBU KURASHIGE, A visiting professor from the Ikenobo Society of Floral Arts in Kyoto, Japan, will be conducting a series of seminar workshops on classical Shoka and Rikka and free-style Ikebana in the Philippines.

For the Ikenobo Ikebana Society of Manila, the workshop will be on Feb. 21-23, at Greenwich Club House in Corinthian Gardens, Quezon City. While still in Manila, Professor Kurashige will be one of the guests of honor for the formal opening of the Ikebana International, Manila Chapter's exhibits on Feb. 24, at Edsa Shangri-La Mall, Mandaluyong.

On Feb. 25-28, the professor will be with the Davao Ikenobo Chapter and on March 2-4, with the Cebu Ikenobo Chapter. For those who are interested in Ikebana art, contact professor Serapion S. Metilla, Manila Chapter club president at 9394593; Aida Villanueva at 6310270 or Joyce Kato at 0917-812-0748. Neny Abaca, club president of Davao at 0917-7011993, and club president Linda To of Cebu Chapter at 0917-6222260 or Zelia Borromeo at 0916-3323724.

PROFESSOR Nobu Kurashige (right) specializes in classical Shoka, Rikka and free styles. She will conduct workshops in Manila, Davao and Cebu.

The signs are in your favor.
The Sale runs from 27 January - 5 March 2006
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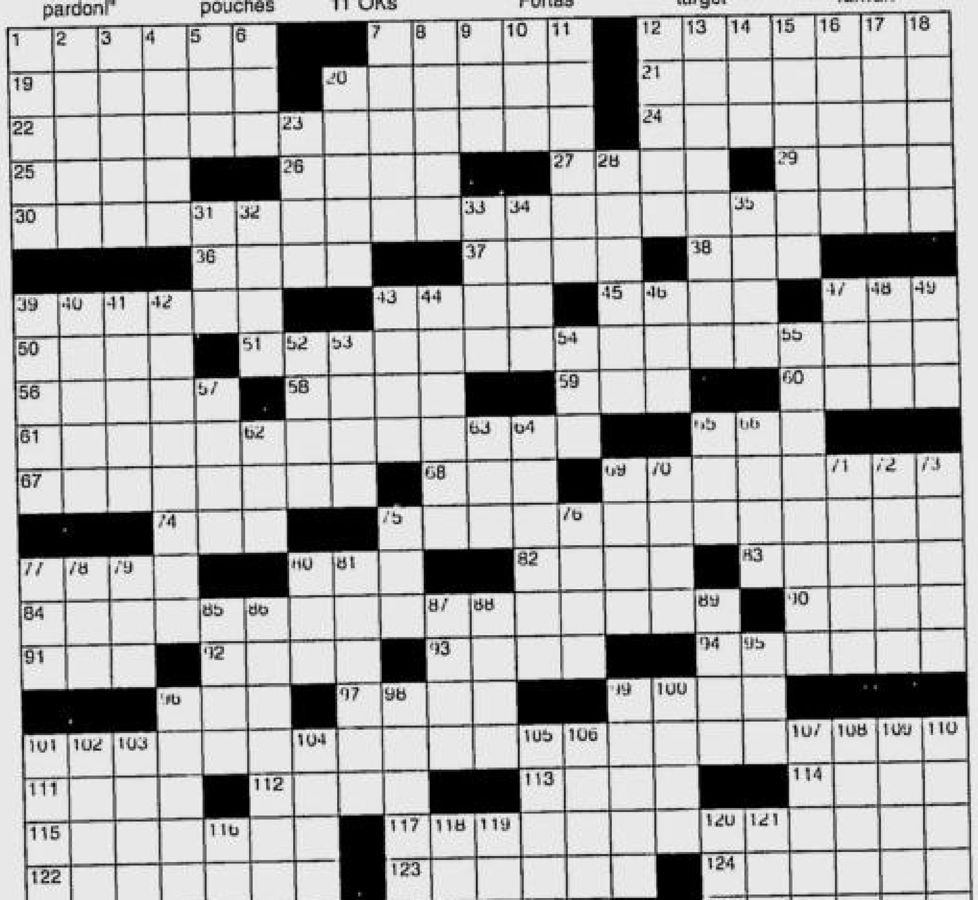
7 Diving gear
12 Mozart's middle name
19 Pacific and Indian
20 "No. 5" fragrance creator
21 Tenor Andrea
22 Start of riddle #1
24 Interfering, with "in"
25 Actress Loughlin
26 Swinger Sammy
27 Cordoba cheers
29 Dutch cheese
30 Middle of riddle #1
36 Caution
37 Big cheese
38 Trial fig.
39 Disposition
43 Boat part
45 Benefit
47 In history
50 Theater award
51 End of riddle #1
56 Actor Milian
58 "— your pardon!"
59 Pilot's dir.
60 Must have
61 Riddle #1's answer
65 Put two and two together
67 Stick sport
68 It's charged
69 "Charlie Hustle"
74 Flock female
75 Start of riddle #2
77 Broadway "Auntie"
80 Greek consonant
82 Beat badly
83 New Testament book
84 Middle of riddle #2
90 Eat supper
91 Tex- — food
92 Fictional sleuth
93 Back of the neck
94 Things of value
96 Lennon's lady
97 Some NCOs
99 Farm unit
101 End of riddle #2
111 Blind as —
112 Ruffian
113 Bodily pouches
114 Pt. of ER or EMT
115 Harlequin novel
117 Riddle #2's answer
122 Become balanced
123 — -eyed (showing wonder)
124 Ancient ascetic
125 Forsakes
126 Make reparation
127 Toddler boy, to a Scot

DOWN
1 Plays in an alley
2 Sneeze sound
3 Give new weapons to
4 Couric of "Today"
5 Additionally
6 General on a Chinese menu
7 "Quiet!"
8 Creme de — (liqueur)
9 Italian article
10 "The Fresh Prince of — -Air"
11 OKs
12 Convent church
13 Layered Greek entree
14 Make believe
15 Abhor
16 Leave out, as a syllable
17 Arm bones
18 Frat letter
20 Possess jointly with another
23 French-Belgian river
28 Damsels
31 Have a 66-Down
32 Pusher's pursuer
33 "... sting like —"
34 Lie around
35 Western Indians
39 Complete
40 Virus named for a river
41 Copy
42 Color similar to avocado
43 Capped joint
44 Add just before the deadline
46 "Who — you?"
47 Vigoda or Fortas
48 "You don't say!"
49 Curious
52 Snake sound
53 Proficient
54 Medit. land
55 C-3PO and R2-D2
57 Reveal
62 China's Lao- —
63 Group of whales
64 Swaddle
65 — discount
66 Liability
69 Painter Cezanne
70 Suffix with kitchen
71 Navel type
72 Daredevil's deed
73 Alleviates
75 With 76-Down, harmonica feature
76 See 75-Down
77 "The Wizard of Oz" studio
78 All-in-favor vote
79 2,010, to Tullius
80 School org.
81 Osaka's island
85 Retin-A target
86 Faster way
87 Opposed to
88 Tuba's range
89 Pool pull-over
95 Picture
96 Fuel rating word
98 Become really gung-ho
99 Rule: Suffix
100 Dermatologist's concern
101 Ventured
102 Superior to
103 Appoints
104 Sharpens
105 Winner's overhead gesture
106 Quarter bird?
107 Taunt
108 Spur on
109 Pop/funk singer — Marie
110 Made a boo-boo
116 Neither fish — fowl
118 Drunkard
119 Card game
120 Ayres or Wallace
121 Suffix with Taiwan



answer on page E3

RP gardens as tourist attractions

PHILIPPINE GARDENS are now among the country's tourist destinations.

This was contained in a memorandum of agreement signed this week by the Department of Tourism, Philippine Orchid Society and Philippine Horticultural Society.

The signing was held during the formal launch of Flora Filipina Expo, an international garden festival Feb. 23-March 5, at Clamshell 1, in Intramuros.

"We envision the Flora Filipina Expo to be a major Philippine tourism event that will create awareness among horticulture enthusiasts from all over the world and [encourage] them to visit our islands and see our wide collection of plant species," Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano said.

Expected to attend are local and foreign hobbyists, plant experts, traders, and tour organizers. A conference will be held at the Manila Hotel on the latest technologies, trends and global demands of the horticulture industry.

Other side events include an auction of rare plants, flower arranging competition, on-the-spot painting contest, photography competition, Ikebana exhibition and cultural shows. A tour of garden centers all over the Philippines is also slated.

Call 4001993 or visit www.philorchidsociety.org.

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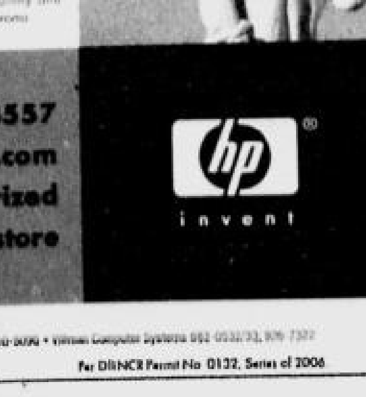
4. Deadline of submission of coupons is on February 27, 2006
5. The prize includes a roundtrip airfare and 3 days 2 nights tour package for two to Hong Kong Disneyland with twin sharing accommodations.
6. Raffle draw will be held on March 2, 2006, 5:00 PM at Hewlett Packard Philippines, 37/F Robinsons Summit Tower, Ayala Avenue, Makati City in the presence of a DTI representative
7. Winners will be notified via phone and registered mail.
8. Winners must present the winning stubs together with the registered mail (confirmation letters) and any valid ID (Driver's License, SSS, GSIS, Postal ID, Company ID, School ID) when claiming the prize. Prizes may be claimed at Yeaps Corporation 2306 Herrera Tower, Rufino corner Valero Sts Salcedo Village, Makati City Telephone number 753-2558
9. Trips are valid for 6 months from date of issue
10. Prizes not claimed within 60 days from receipt of registered mail shall be forfeited in favor of Hewlett Packard Philippines with prior DTI approval
11. Prizes are transferable, but not convertible to cash
12. Winner shall shoulder the 20% tax as well as the securing of travel documents and other related travel expenses shall also be shouldered by the winner
13. All employees of HP Philippines, Yeaps Corporation, related agencies, third parties and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity and affinity are disqualified from joining the promo



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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0132, Series of 2006

Bridal fair Jan. 29-30

A TWO-DAY EXHIBIT WILL BE HELD AS PART OF the third annual "Wedding March", Jan. 29-30, at the Glorietta Activity Center, Makati City.

The bridal fair, a joint project of the Philippine Daily Inquirer and cbv7 Media Master, brings together suppliers who can address every marrying couple's requirements.

Among those featured in the fair are gowns and men's wardrobe by Eric Pineda.

Hourly raffles will be held. Pre-register at www.cbv7mediamasters.com or nanz@cbv7mediamasters.com. Call 8096190, 09178423148.

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Milestones

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the INQUIRER, P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.

AGUSTIN-GUTIERREZ

Jesus Federico Esguerra Agustin, son of **Virgilio** and **Zenaida Agustin**, will tie the knot with **Jenniffer Bacani Gutierrez**, daughter of **Godofredo** and **Ofelia Gutierrez**, on Feb. 12, at Nuestra Señora de Gracia Parish, Guadalupe Viejo, Makati City. Reception will follow at Kasalikasan Garden in Fort Bonifacio, Taguig.

DACAYO-USMAN

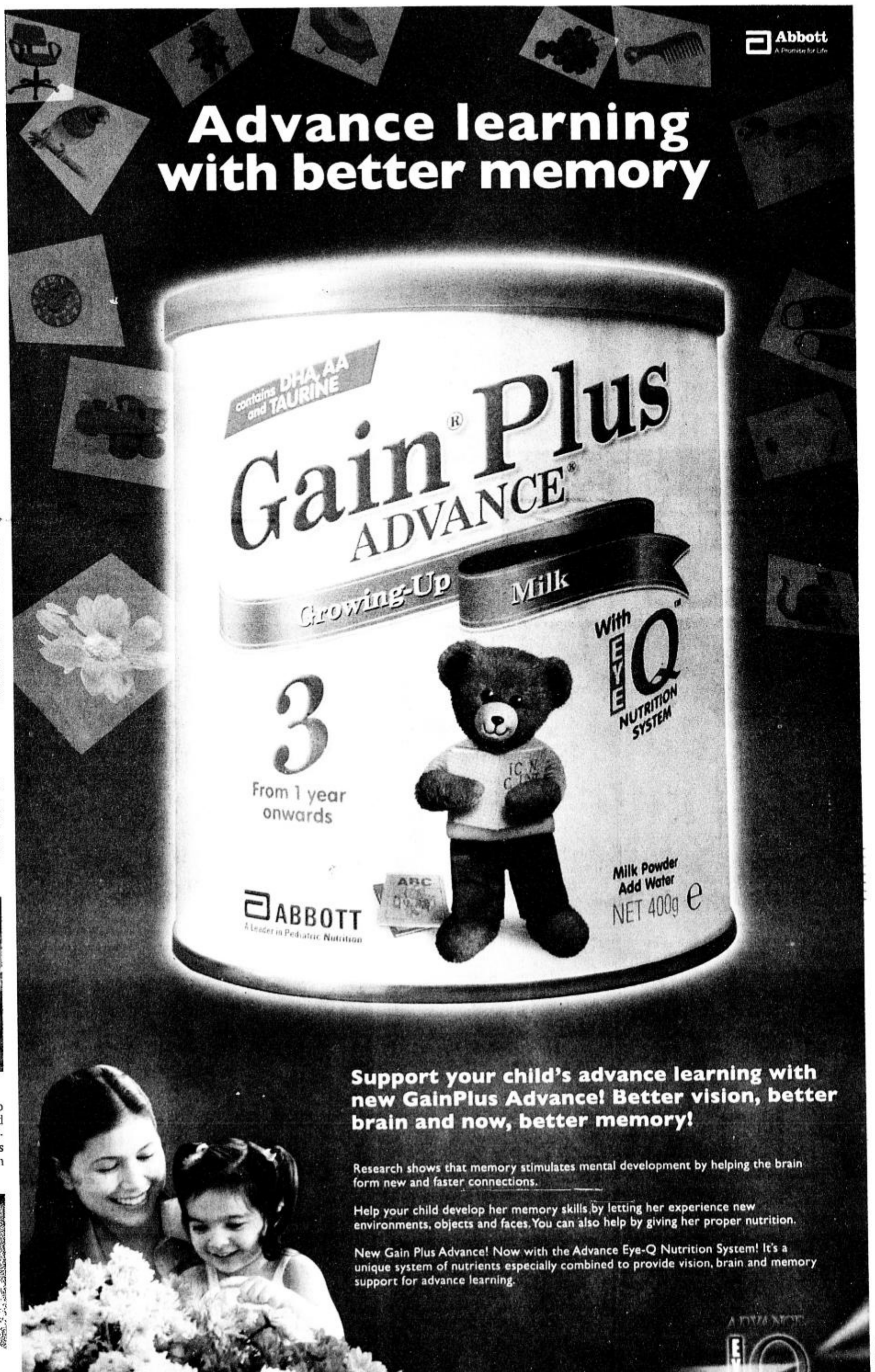
Rommel Dacayo, son of **Felix** and **Miriam Dacayo**, exchanged vows with **Sarah Usman**, daughter of **Romeo** and **Patricia Usman**, at St. Michael Archangel Parish in Marilao, Bulacan. Reception followed at Ancon Pavillion in Meycauayan, Bulacan. Don Paolo Studio did the still photographs and video.

MARTIN-DALUMPINES

Rommel O. Martin, son of engineer **Romeo** and **Remedios Martin**, recently married **Maria Sheila P. Dalumpines**, daughter of PC-Supt. Jose (Ret.) and **Rebecca Dalumpines** (deceased), at San Agustin Church. Reception was held at Father Blanco's Garden.

QUIANZON-VARGAS

Godwin Quianzon, son of engineer **Florello** and **Betty Quianzon**, recently exchanged marriage vows with **Vannie Vargas**, daughter of engineer **Virgilio** and **Tita Vargas**, at Saint Susana Church, in Alabang.



MARYANNE Lumen, Jojo Zabarte, Franco Limjuco and Joey Kierulf

MARILOU Araneta Senn, Henri Muzarrelli, Henry Zabarte, Louie Kierulf and Nini Licaros

JOBERT and Liza Limjuco, Apples Haian, Marvin Verano and best man Carlo Limjuco

A fairy-tale wedding

HOTSHOT businessmen Buddy Roa, Abe Licaros, Boy Cuenca, Ovi Espiritu and Mari Ojeda

HERMAN Grey and good-looking Cito Senn

STYLISH women Ruby Roa, Maryann Cuenca Tinio and daughter Tina Tinio

RAYMOND and Thess Gonzales with the happy bride and groom

By Maurice Arcache
Photos by Alex Van Hagen

WHAT SEEMS TO BE *THE* PLACE FOR weddings these days, the upscale Santuario de San Antonio in Forbes Park, was also the venue of choice for that cool, fun couple, vivacious **Kathleen Kierulf** and young businessman **Franco Limjuco**, *palanggas*.

Three hundred of Cosmo Manille society's leading personalities witnessed the lovebirds say their "I dos." They could attest this was a case of true love.

The radiant bride looked stunning in her **Jun Escario** and **Oj Hofer** creation, encrusted with pearls, sequins and crystals and with gold threading.

It was the second time for *moi* to see a groom, who stood alongside his best man, brother **Carlo Limjuco**, teary-eyed as he watched his gorgeous bride walk down the aisle on the arm of her father.

"Kitty" K. is the daughter of **Joey Kierulf** and **Lily Guevarra Styner**, while Franco is the second son of everyone's *palangga*, **Bert Limjuco** and **Maryann Ojeda Lumen**.

The *ninangs*—**Menchu Romero, Jaina Perez, Jojo Zabarte, Ningning Yulo, Marylou Verano** and **Tess Balaguer**—wore beautiful lavender gowns with sage highlights, each created by their personal designers. The bridesmaids—**Ria Romero, Pria Solon, Tricia Chiongbian** and **Tina Jurado**—wore **Escario** creations of long, flowing gowns that silhouetted their figures. Secondary sponsors **Sharon Azanza, Nicole Guidotti** and **Dimples la'O**, wore sage green dresses also designed by Escario who, this time, used lavender as the accent color.

All the women indeed looked lovely in their elegantly fashioned gowns.

The couple's *ninongs*—**Louie Kierulf, Dr. James Styner, Louie Senn, Melo Santiago, Arturo Luz, Francis Lumen**—and groomsmen—**Cookie la'O, Chris Guidotti, Gooby Yulo, Joel Yaptinchay, Derrick Chuingbian**—all stood tall and handsome in their tailored black suits.

Aprés Franco and Kitty were pronounced husband and wife and sealed their union with a wow kiss, invitees dashed over to the NBC Tent at the Fort. Stepping inside the English garden setting, it was easy to see the fairy tale did not end with the ceremony, dahlings.

A FAIRYTALE did come true for Kathleen "Kitty" Kierulf and husband Franco Limjuco.

WITH principal sponsors Tess Balaguer, Jaina Perez, Marilou Verano, Ningning Yulo, Menchu Romero, Jojo Zabarte, Louie Sena, Louie Kierulf, Arturo Luz, Francis Lumen, Melo Santiago and James Styner

The 300 or so guests could attest this was a case of true love

As they awaited the arrival of the newlyweds, invitees were entertained with cool bossa nova melodies by Aquarela while wicked drinks like Mojito, Sangria, the chi-chi Bellini, Mimosa and Sgropino were served. We nibbled on the excellent, yummy cocktail finger food by the princess of Italian cuisine, Cibo's **Margarita Fores**, but who else?

Lush trees, peonies, lavender and green hydrangeas, and lilies of the valley were artistically arranged by 1816, *natch*, all around the cocktail area.

Entering the other part of the tent, sealed off for the grand dinner, you couldn't help but say "wow" upon seeing tall mirror-covered cones surrounded by gorgeous floral centerpieces, creating a magical effect.

Cibo prepared a superb four-course menu for the sit-down dinner. For dessert, buffet tables groaned with holiday season favorites that meant extra pounds. Belgian chocolate fountains were scattered all over the dining area to everyone's delight, *palanggas*, with scrumptious bananas, marshmallows and puff pastries for dipping into the fountain.

The couple's first dance that signaled it was party-time was a hot salsa number that impressed everyone. *Aprés*, it was rock and roll, dahlings, as everyone shook the dance floor at intensity 9 to the Latin beats of Aquarela. Taking over to raise the intensity even more were hot DJs **Bombi Balquedra, Anthony Kierulf** and **Nicky Jurado** who took turns dishing their personal party-music choices.

The celebration went on until the wee hours as the young at heart and the hip pack stayed on and on as booze kept flowing endlessly. By 3 a.m., the hot guests had to be practically swept out of the tent.

Now, dahlings, that's awesome partying Limjuco-style.

For the newlyweds, it was truly a moder-day fairy tale come true.

Cheers, *palanggas*! Enjoy your dreams together. After all, romantic fairy tales live forever, *n'est-ce pas*?

RELATIVES and pals of the Kierulfs and the Limjucos: Marife Furber with Eva Abesamis and Len Olbes; (standing) Ramon Jacinto, Zeny Cruz, Frannie Jacinto, the newlyweds, Georgie Baillet, Southern baron Citoy Lopez and Roger Wilson

MOTHER of the bride Lily Styner, Sarah Anido and Demi Vidal; (standing) Dr. Jim Styner, Ging Garcia, Kitty and Franco, Jaina Perez and Bedes Sanchez

PALS of the groom's father: La Tasca's first couple Marilou Araneta and husband Louie Senn; knit queen Lulu Tan Gan and husband, international security magnate Joseph Gueta; (standing) Bolo Tuason, Kitty and Franco, Cita Barretto and husband Ed Villanueva

THE GROOM Franco Limjuco, grandmother and matriarch Leoni Geronimo Limjuco with Tina and Bert Limjuco

His wife's ex is trying to win her back

EMILY'S POST

Emily A. Marcelo

DEAR EMILY,

My wife and I have been together for over a year now. She has two sons from an earlier marriage. I like to think that we have a healthy, normal household with the usual adjustments step-families must make.

One problem that my wife and I cannot agree on is her ex. They divorced because he was "selfish, insensitive and showed her no affection," she said. He was a good provider but spent very little time with the children and wasn't a good father.

When she told him she was unhappy and threatened to leave, he was sarcastic, making fun of her. She made good her threat but the husband, who was so full of himself, was confident she'd be back—but she met me.

When he found out we were serious and about to get married, he suddenly became the best father on the planet. He started visiting his ex in-laws, whom he ignored during their marriage, saying platitudes like "families should stay together..."

They (in-laws) initially rejected me and tried to persuade her to go back to him. We survived that but his games didn't stop. It's been over a year now and he still doesn't have a girlfriend. He'd show up at my wife's family gatherings alone, making everyone too tense [to have a] good time.

He would call the children five to six times a day and talk to them for hours, asking what's happening in our household. He knew when I went to work, when I got home, what may wife and I argued about, what we ate for dinner—you name it.

My wife is a very loving person. She begged me to tolerate him for the [sake of the children] who have fallen in love with their new and improved Dad. I tolerated him and even tried to befriend him. But I knew he hated me since he was still in love with my wife. He then secretly gave her a compact disc full of love songs that described their past and a possible future. My wife said I was out of line in my analysis of a simple CD.

I later found out that he and my wife conspired to hide e-mail messages from me. I accidentally discovered one where they discussed the message in the CD. When I confronted her about the secret communication she admitted it, but insisted there was nothing to it.

At that point, I didn't trust either of them. There are several reasons why I now believe she never wanted to burn the bridge to him. I simply don't trust her anymore.

He is a thorn in my side and she will do nothing to get rid of him.

Would I be wrong to walk out?

JEFFERSON

It's amazing that although marriage has become disposable in your part of the world, you have not bolted out and gotten a divorce—considering how all odds seem to be stacking up against you. That's great!

You're so unlike the millions who, at the very first sign of trouble, immediately pick up the toothbrush, faster than you can say boo! Or are you?

You're in a tight fix! You may love her dearly, but she and her husband have a past, albeit shady and rocky, and they have children who are being used in this game he is playing.

He has turned around and become lovable because he saw, in hindsight, how he missed the sense of belonging to a family. It's a low blow—but there's nothing you can do about what's happening at present. He suddenly looked back at his life and saw what a beautiful garden he had left behind! It is corrupt and deceitful of him to mess up your life!

So be yourself... the person your wife ran to to escape a miserable marriage. Measure for measure, keep in step with this intruder who seems to be a candidate for canonization in your wife's family. It will tear you to pieces, but that's the only way to save this marriage.

See how long his "rehabilitation" will last. Watch who cracks first—you or the husband. If he is just playing a game, this charade won't last and he will revert to his old creepy self. He'll then become the most disparaged person in that side of the universe sooner or later.

If he is intent on reclaiming his family, only time and events will tell if they'll believe him the second time around.

Will it be wrong for you to walk out? No, but will you accept defeat from a charlatan whose motives are suspect? Are you just going to hand her over to him without a fight? He had all the chances in the world to prove his worth to them, so why now?

If you don't trust her anymore, ask yourself if your life will be better off without her. If yes, then do what you have to do. If not, well...

Remember that your happiness and peace of mind come first. Let the chips fall where they may.

E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirer.com.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to INQUIRER. Listen to Ms Marcelo co-host the program "Kalikasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.

GRAND TOURS of 2006
16-19 Feb. BATANES &SABTANG ISLANDS TOUR
10-12 Feb. ILOCOS TOUR w/ Pagudpud
(+Mannong, Vigan, Batac, Sarrat, Paoay, Laoag)
17-19 Feb. BANAUE TOUR w/ Sagada
(+Bontoc, Rice Terraces Viewpts, Banga-an Village)
25-26 Feb. "Flower Festival" BAGUIO CITY
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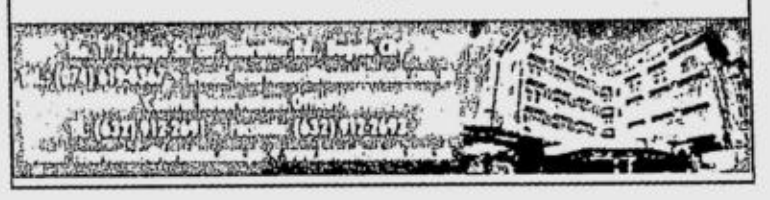

SMART 3G Wows ATENEO AND LA SALLE

For even the fiercest of rivals, new technology can be a unifying factor. That was the case in the campuses of archrivals Ateneo de Manila and De La Salle as SMART 3G made its presence felt. SMART 3G is the next big thing in telecommunications, a new and exciting way for voice, data and information to be shared via celfones. With that in mind, it was but natural that SMART 3G made its way into these two highly respected universities.

As the Ateneo de Manila University campus celebrated its Science and Technology Week, SMART 3G showed its capabilities in two ways. A demo booth was set up to allow both Ateneo students and faculty to see the wonders of SMART 3G. Short for "third generation technology", 3G will give celfone users richer, more active content using greater bandwidth, enabling video calls, video streaming, and high-speed mobile Internet.

Later, a presentation on the history of 3G was made to management students to help them better understand how SMART 3G will revolutionize the way we communicate. Video calls were also simulated to give the Ateneans a preview of what the next wave of technology will be like in the coming months.

Video calling is done around campus to show students what 3G technology can do

Patrick Belicena, Access Planning & Engineering Head, lectures on the history of 3G at the PLDT Convergent Technologies Center

A faculty member experiences a 3G moment

The SMART 3G booth at the SEC field

Richard Arcilla is surrounded by friends as he tries a hand at video calling

Live video calling wows students

Raymond So impressed by the "Great Demo!" eagerly awaits the launch of the 3G service

The SMART 3G booth at DLSU

Lucky students get to pick a SMART premium item

Graduate student and teacher, Kat Javillonar gives SMART 3G a "fabulous" mark

Over at the DLSU campus, a SMART 3G demo booth was set-up for students and guests to experience first-hand the potential of this latest technology. As the school was celebrating Chinese New Year with red lanterns strewn across the grounds, positive reviews on SMART 3G were flowing in. The service was said to be "great", "cool", and "simply amazing". Raymond So, a student at DLSU, was very much impressed by the demo given on live video calling that he already expressed his eagerness to avail of the service.

SMART 3G is definitely the next big thing. Ateneans and Lasallites alike were witness to the amazing possibilities brought about by this revolutionary technology.

THE NEXT 3iG THING

Experience SMART 3G at the following SMART Wireless Centers: SMART Tower Ayala Avenue, Alabang Town Center, EDSA Shangri-la Mall, Powerplant Rockwell and SM Cebu. SMART 3G is happening right now and it's time to see for yourself what real 3G is all about.

SMART 3G
The wireless revolution right before your eyes.

Bank raffle winners announced Feb. 1

EAST WEST BANK (EWB) WILL AWARD the first winners of its East West Getaways promo on Feb. 1.

Prizes are trips for four to Los Angeles, California; Hong Kong; Bangkok, Thailand; and Miniloc Island Resort in El Nido, Palawan. All trips are inclusive of round-trip air and land transfers, hotel accommodations and daily breakfast.

Depositors who qualify for the raffle may inquire at the nearest EWB Personalized Banking Center. The next draw for trips for four to Orlando, Florida; Gold Coast, Australia; Beijing/Shanghai, China; and Lagen Island Resort, El Nido, Palawan will be held Aug. 1.

Just open any of these accounts: regular checking, passbook/ATM/statement savings. BizCheque, Savings Maximizer, Infinity Savings and Infinity Checking to qualify for the raffle.

Every P2,000 average collected daily balance entitles the client to one raffle entry. Existing EWB depositors who refer a new client will get 20 raffle entries for every successful referral or for every new client that opens an account with the bank.

Open an account with East West Bank now for the chance to take home any of the travel prizes in the February raffle draw.

Visit www.eastwestbanker.com. Call 88717 or (toll-free) 1-800-10-8-ACCESS (1-800-10-8222377) for provincial areas.

The miracle of St. Lucy in my life

PURELY PERSONAL

Josephine Darang

IN 2001, OPHTHALMOLOGIST DR. Eduard Sarabia of the Makati Medical Center confirmed the findings of his cousin Dr. Ramon Sarabia. I had retinal detachment in my left eye, resulting in blurred vision.

I had to use a flashlight to read and I could hardly type. There was also hemorrhaging behind my left eye.

I needed an operation that would cost P50,000. Although Dr. Sherman Valero offered to waive his fees as surgeon, I did not have money for hospital expenses.

I was never so scared in my life. I was afraid I would go blind because the doctors warned the other eye would also be affected.

I learned about St. Lucy, patroness of good vision, and prayed to her. My friends Susan Laureola, Ging Ong and Marie Yatco offered to bring me to Calumpit, Bulacan, where there was a chapel of Sta. Lucia in the barrio named after her. We went on Dec. 13, 2001, her fiesta.

I begged for her help and promised to write about her so more people would pray to her and ask for help with their eye problems.

Within a month, I was able to see better and did not have to use the flashlight to read. I cannot explain how it is possible that I can read though there is still no sight in my left eye.

Dr. Eduard Sarabia agreed that it must be a miracle of God through the intercession of St. Lucy.

Eye bank

Another doctor who believes in St. Lucy and who prays to her before he operates is Dr. Robert Caro, a retina specialist in Staten Island, New York. He donated US$25,000 to Dr. Minguita Padilla in 1995 for the opening of an eye bank in Manila on the condition that it was named after Sta. Lucia.

The eye bank opened at the Makati Medical Center that same year, operated by the Eye Bank Foundation of the Philippines. Dr. Padilla is founder and current president. For the past 10 years, corneal transplant has been made possible through corneal tissue donations by families whose relatives have died or from voluntary donors.

GRANDCHILDREN of Dr. Federico Sarabia Sr., first optometrist of the Philippines: Dr. Christine Sarabia-Heras, Dr. Eduard Sarabia and Dr. Melinda Sarabia Morales

The eye bank has processed 6,436 corneas for transplantation receiving 5,908 corneas from medico-legals and 528 from voluntary donors.

The eye bank is now in the Philippine General Hospital compound, at the Centro Optalmologico José Rizal that was donated by the Spanish government as a pet project of Queen Sofia. Call 3026282 or 3026287 or text 0917-8935995.

Centennial

Sarabia Optical marks its centennial on Feb. 22 at the Ayala Museum. Dr. Christine Sarabia-Heras was the first optometrist to fit me with contact lenses in 1979. She became my friend and I came to know her sisters, who were also optometrists, and her brother Dr. Eduard Sarabia, who became my ophthalmologist. He is the chair of the Ophthalmology Department of the San Juan Medical Center, a charity hospital.

Although they don't want it mentioned, I came to know about how they helped the poor. Their cousin Dr. Miguel Sarabia does free cataract surgeries for the poor in Bacolod. Dr. Melinda Sarabia-Morales used to donate eyeglass frames to the television show of Rosa Rosal. Her sister Dr. Titchie Sarabia, who is based in New York, sends help to the Casa Providencia orphanage in Pontevedra, Negros Occidental.

The Sarabias look up to their grandfather, Dr. Federico Sarabia Sr., the first Filipino optometrist in the Philippines.

1st Saturday Mass

The chapel of Mother of the Eucharist and Grace in Barangay San Vicente, Santa Maria, Bulacan, will hold a first Saturday Mass and healing at 12 noon, Feb. 4. Visionary Carmelo Cortez will do the healing after the Mass.

Carmelo, who performed healing after Holy Mass in a South Carolina church, said an American woman who had been blind for 15 years got 75 percent of her sight back.

For free spiritual communion chaplet for the unborn, text 0917-6227726.

DR. MIGUEL Sarabia (right) with sister Dr. Antonella Sarabia-Legaspi and father Dr. Antonio Legaspi

Healing Masses

Fr. Teofilo Rustia will have a Healing Mass at 6:30 p.m., Feb. 3, First Friday, at 2/L, Watsons Drug, Gateway Mall, Araneta Center. There will be a blessing of candles and throats. Coordinator is the Bethesda Springs of Hope Healing Ministry. For inquiries, call Bro. Charlie (4121283).

On Feb. 6, Fr. Nelson Osorio of the Oblates of St. Joseph will have a healing Mass at the Holy Family Parish in Barrio Kapitolyo, Pasig City.

Procession

Today's grand Sto. Niño procession begins at 2 p.m. from the Philtrade to the Quirino Grandstand. Two hundred *carrozas* are expected to participate. Viva Sto Niño!

Fundraiser

The St. Joseph Parish in Cabalantian, Bacolor, Pampanga, will hold a fundraising variety show on March 18 at the site of the ruined church. Tickets, costing P1,000 each, will serve as raffle entries. First prize is P300,000. Text Dr. Salve Olalia at 0918-9056108 for more info.

Milestones

LOJO-HERNANDEZ

Jenefer Hernandez, daughter of **Adalaida Valencia vda. de Hernandez**, will marry **Jude Lojo**, son of **Juanito** and **Rhoda Lojo** of Lipa City on Feb. 4 in a garden wedding at El Grande Hotel and Resort.

The bride will wear a gown designed by **Janine**.

LACSON-ISBERTO

PJ Lacson, son of Mr. and Ms **Mer Lacson**, wed **Mai Isberto**, daughter of Smart Communications head of public affairs and PLDT spokesperson **Mon** and **Iting Isberto**, on Jan. 21 at Our Lady of Remedies, Malate Church

Reception followed at the Main Lounge of The Manila Polo Club.

The bride's gown was designed by **Miguel Arceo**.

TULIO-BOLIVAR

Jenel R. Tulio, son of **Jeremy** and **Nelly Tulio**, married recently **Anna Lhe V. Bolivar**, daughter of **Aveno** and **Sheba Bolivar**, at St. John the Baptist Cathedral in Kalibo, Aklan. Reception followed at Le'Pemy Garden. **Edwin L. Autencio**'s Biste designed the bridal gown. **Rommel J. Constantino** of 5672: Event Management Specialist coordinated the wedding.

KING DEBUT

Grace King, daughter of **Eduardo** and **Paz King**, celebrated her 18th birthday with a dinner/dance on Jan. 27 at the Fiesta Pavilion, Manila Hotel.

Eric Pineda designed the debutante's gown using lemon-yellow Thai silk and honeycombed organdy. The corset top is embellished with feather-cut organza, pailletes, caviar beads and Swarovski crystals. The pattern cascades to the full bias skirt.

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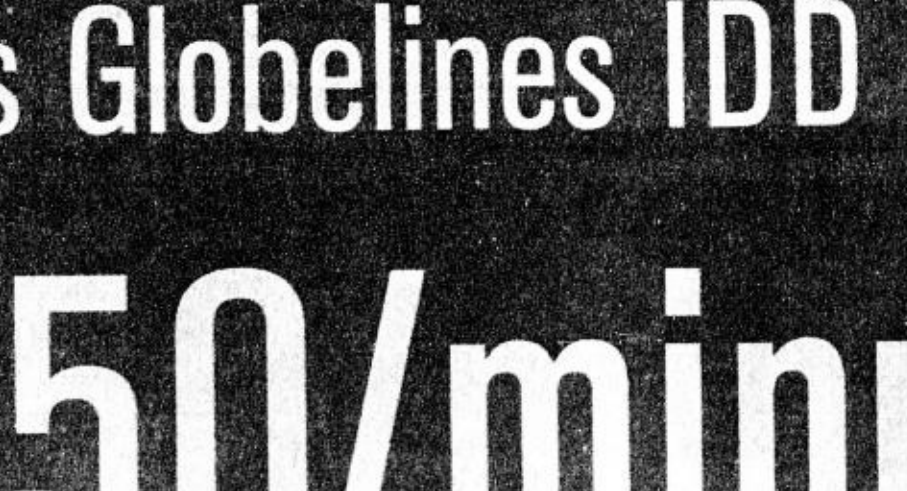

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Sunday LIFESTYLE

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INSIDE the Cartier boutique

Cartier opens the grand doors of its renovated Rue de la Paix boutique to the world's bejeweled crowd

INQUIRER EXCLUSIVE

Legendary Paris address gets a gem of a reopening

TNT WAS INVITED TO ATTEND A BIG EVENT last month in Paris with three acts—a street party, a boutique opening and a magnificent ball—all in one sparkling evening.

"It's unheard of," our driver exclaimed in his thick French accent, pointing to the closing of a section of the Rue de la Paix in Paris just for the event. "This must be a special event!"

T'NT TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

And truly it was, as Cartier's Rue de la Paix boutique once again opened its grand doors after a year's renovation.

Paris is exceptionally beautiful in December, as the City of Lights adds even more lights to celebrate the holiday season.

As I walked on the red carpet leading to the closed street, I was fascinated with the miniature theaters in trademark crimson. Performers included an opera diva, an Indian dancer, and a Chinese opera. The street scene was simply a preview of what lay ahead.

The boutique on Rue de la Paix is especially significant to the luxury brand, as this is where the name of La Maison Cartier first grew in prominence. The original sprawling mansion was where the Cartier brothers were commissioned to create high jewelry for countless royals and celebrities around the world.

The reopened boutique consists of six floors. The first two house the commercial space for jewelry and accessories. There are also private salons for the major buyers and even a bespoke *parfumerie*, where one can create a personal scent if you can fork out 40,000-60,000 euros. The other floors hold office space and a workshop where the legendary high jewelry collections are crafted.

What sets apart this boutique from the other Cartier establishments is that it retains its history and Old-World feel. It's a step back in time, from the wooden floors and carvings, to the turn-of-the-century furniture, to the photographs lined up on the wall, which include those of the King of Siam, 1920s Hollywood actresses and Russian czars.

During our tour, we were privileged to visit the workshop where the high jewelry is made. To view how an artisan cuts and polishes a 63-karat diamond—an art in itself—is a rare experience. The dust pieces, which sometimes amount to 100 karats, are sold to cosmetic companies that use them for high-end creams.

In the last five years, the Cartier brand has undergone a similar renovation yet maintains its label as the "king of jewelers and jeweler of kings." The clientele is a multinational base,

LEGENDARY/ E3

A CARTIER masterpiece, one of 13 pieces created for the event

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FENG shui expert Lillian Too (center) with Wan Jin Too, Washington Sycip, and Maritess and Nick Allen

THE GOOD Earth pretty owners Ana Martha Moreno, Ria Castrillo, Van Morales, Sonja Ocampo, Marge Lazatin, Tracy Ampil and Jen Lozano

SGV founder Fred Velayo and wife Harriet

FENG shui enthusiasts Ambassador Isabel Wilson and Nene Quimson

Am all fired up for Year of the Fire Dog

TESSA!

Tessa Prieto-Valdes

KUNG HEI FAT CHOI! Auspicious greetings to all as we welcome the Year of the Fire Dog! This year may bring new opportunities for some, but misfortune for others depending on your astrological sign. For me, born in the Year of the Wood Rabbit, it will be a wonderful year. That's because I have learned to harness the energy forces called chi to vibrate with positive luck and good fortune. Thanks to the entertaining presentation of **Lillian Too**'s Feng Shui Extravaganza, I am ready for the New Year.

It must have been fate that led me to meet Lillian, the topmost celebrated feng-shui expert, whose books have sold close to 10 million copies. **Maritess Allen**, president of World of Feng Shui Philippines, invited my mother, who could not make it and passed to me her invitations. Fascinated by Chinese astrology, I gladly took her place at the packed ballroom of Westin Philippine Plaza together with my Baclaran buddy, **Rosan Cruz**.

I am not really a morning person, so I got into the ballroom 30 minutes late, but impeccably dressed in a Chinese-inspired fuchsia dress by **Peter Lim**. Lillian was already in full swing giving her forecast for the New Year and the lucky patterns and remedies for any afflictions. I quickly jotted down the helpful tips paying special attention on how to maximize money luck.

Looking around my table, I noticed business tycoon **Washington Sycip** was very interested on tactics to avert misfortune. I guess even the pillars of the local business world aren't averse to wearing lucky colors or facing their desks in favorable positions if it means good feng shui. Whatever is set in one's stars, being kind or generous can always enhance luck. Check out www.wofs.com to get in-depth information for free.

> Water is the element needed to improve one's luck this year, and since I am Sea Princess, I guess I'm also Lady Luck

As further explained by Maritess, luck is in three parts: heaven, mankind and earth. Heaven luck is pre-ordained, God-given and cannot be augmented. Mankind luck is the actions or decisions one does, such as good deeds or charitable acts (the more generous, the more lucky). And feng-shui luck is living in harmony with your environment. It only takes two-thirds to be successful in life so getting a little help from feng shui luck can do wonders.

Water and wood

In my interior design practice, religion, superstition, astrology and feng shui have all been interwoven in my projects' details. Somehow, I have learned to incorporate all those elements when choosing colors of walls, placement of rooms, groundbreaking and moving in dates. For this year, water and wood energy are needed so Lillian suggests putting a water feature in the north part of your house.

During the break, the crowd swarmed to the selling area to buy all the lucky charms, protection amulets, bracelets and books—all needed to ensure only favorable days ahead. Being a shopaholic and sucker as well, I went crazy buying for my family and friends. I was informed that each animal signs has its "secret friend" or main ally. So I bought myself a dog compass. Aside from the dog-rabbit combination, the allies are rat and ox, boar and tiger, rooster and dragon, monkey and snake, sheep and horse. So for those still in search of Mr. Right, you might want to consider Mr. Animal Sign instead.

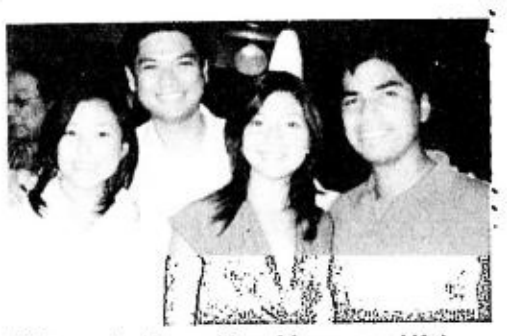
With all the countless advice, I remember Lillian saying to "create flow," one must spend so more can come. At least, I have found a legitimate way to explain to my husband **Dennis** why it's good luck to shop. So after the fair, I continued my shopping in their World of Feng Shui boutique in the ground floor of The Podium. Though I am sure the items can be found at half the price in Binondo or Greenhills, WOFS stuff comes with positive "Lillian Too" happy energy. Other branches of WOFS are in the LG/F, SM City Cebu, and 5/F, Rustan's Makati.

ELEGANT and lucky ladies Therese Santos, Marixi Prieto, Tessie Sy-Coson, Maritess Allen and Vicky Cuisia

FAMILY friends Marot Moreno, Jesusa Calanog and Mary de Leon

GOOD Earth chef Henry Cheung and Cory Quirino

SEC. Gary Teves



HIP couples Tin and Jose Moreno and Kai Prieto and Raj Moreno

COOL friends Marielle Yulo, Patty Cojuangco, Tanya Moreno and dad Raymond Moreno

BUSINESS executive Basil Ong, Tricia Coseteng and Alaska's Fred Uytengsu

LOVELY guest Cynthia Picasso

REPERTORY Philippines acrtess Joy Virata

Before Lillian headed back to her world tour, Wash Sycip hosted a special dinner in her honor at the Tower Club. Attended by acute business giants like Alaska's **Fred Uytengsu** and HSBC's **Warner Manning**, Lillian spoke extemporaneously on the different businesses that will prosper and which ones to invest in. Warner, who was born in the Year of the Dragon, will not have a great year but because of his good deeds and total generosity, he will have an excellent year.

Good-chi activities

Next week, Warner will host his fourth annual fundraising campaign for Children's Hour with another Charity Challenge. He will be joined by sports enthusiasts (including me!) on a sprint triathlon (750-m swim, 20-km bike and 5-km run). Pledges are being collected and are much welcomed (e-mail catmanese@hsbc.com.ph for details). As I am just getting back into exercise, I sure hope to finish the triathlon within the day!

My first dragon ceremony this year was at the opening of the Good Earth Tea Room last week. I cut the ribbon with fellow INQUIRER columnist **Cory Quirino** and chef-owner **Henry Cheung**. Good Earth serves superb Chinese-fusion cuisine and is at 2/L, Cortes de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center. Call 8093260.

Whether you are just born lucky or your animal sign is an ally this Year of the Dog, remember that good chi will come to those that share and act kindly to others. Charity does wonders for the soul and also returns good fortune a hundredfold!

E-mail me at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph

LION dance at The Good Earth opening in Alabang

NICKQUE Tan

WARNER Manning

SGV chair Wash Sycip with his grand twins Mina and Amor Herrera

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The World of Feng Shui strives to set itself into the minds of consumers as the place for Feng Shui products through marketing efforts that highlight its commitment to quality, value and integrity. It has a website (www.wofs.com) that attracts about one million hits a month, and a database of over hundred of thousands of users, which continues to grow daily.

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WOFS.com, franchisor of World of Feng Shui chain of boutiques, is the most professional venture ever to develop the commercial potential of Feng Shui, with the most popular website on the Internet and the endorsement of the world's number one writer on Feng Shui, Lillian Too. Lillian has written nearly a hundred books on the subject translated into 37 languages, and has sold more than 10 million copies worldwide. Her popularity continues to grow... alongside the increasing and expanding interest in Feng Shui worldwide.

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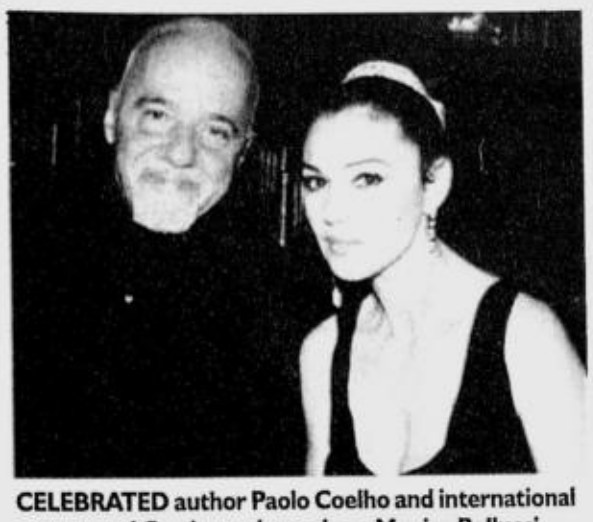
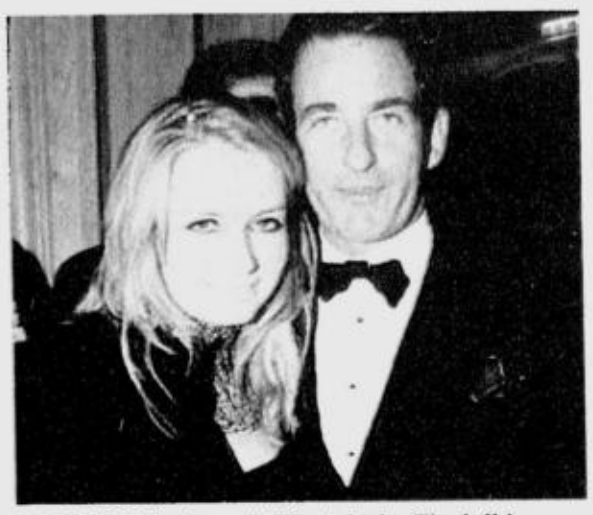


CELEBRATED author Paolo Coelho and international actress and Cartier ambassadress Monica Bellucci

IHT'S STYLE editor Suzy Menkes and Cartier International CEO Bernard Fornas



SOPHIE Wellesley and UK art dealer Tim Jeffries

ENTRANCE to the Tuileries Garden

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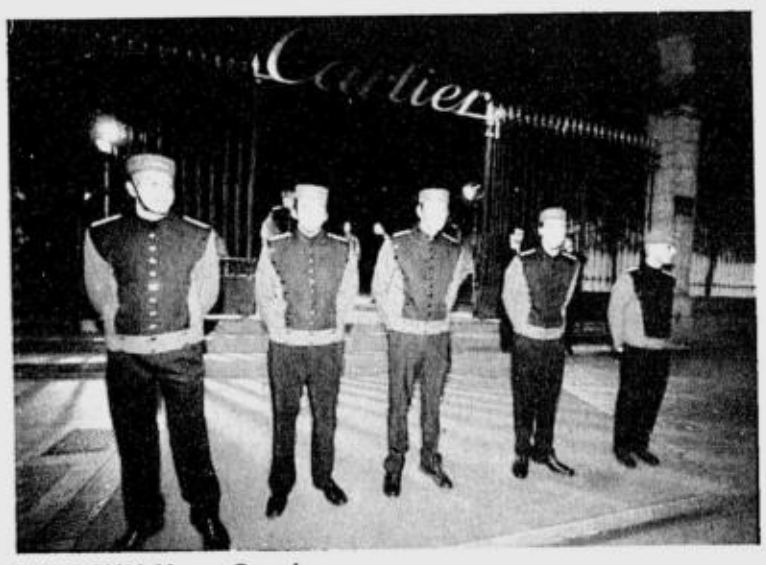
Legendary Paris address gets a gem of a reopening

From page E1

STREET theater Cartier-style



THE ROYAL Honor Guards

with Chinese, Japanese and Russians leading the way. If you think the days of the Maharajahs bedecked with jewelry are gone, think again. Items in their high jewelry range from 300,000 to 1 million euros upward.

Clearly those who can afford are clamoring for more exclusivity and luxury and shunning the commercialism or marketing hype that some retail brands are prone to. It's surreal to see all this wealth exposed to someone coming from a country that's in need.

I was able to speak to some Cartier executives who informed me that clients in their Cartier tiaras and bespoke tuxedos are also the largest charity donors in their respective countries. I guess everything evens out in the end.

At midnight, everyone moved to the next venue—the Cartier Ball. It was held at the Jardin des Tuileries where a tent had been set up: Every chandelier in Paris must have hung on the tent's ceiling.

Of particular note was how one got to the venue from the boutique. One had the choice of walking—but in zero-degree weather and not to mention fur, Blahniks and gowns—or of riding a vintage car. About 100 honor guards led 600 of the elite guests to the elegant dome tent.

Leading the way was **Bernard Fornas**, CEO of Cartier International, as well as the stunningly beautiful actress **Monica Bellucci**, ambassadress for Cartier Jewelry.

The dinner was another extravaganza as guests were serenaded by the Glenn Miller Orchestra, in the midst of the opera-inspired décor, while feasting on a five-star menu. Spotted were famous Brazilian writer **Paolo Coelho**, French actor **Jean Reno**, model **Ines de la Fressange**, and **Simoneta Gomez-Acebo**, the niece of King **Juan Carlos** of Spain who happens to be Cartier's director of communications for Europe.

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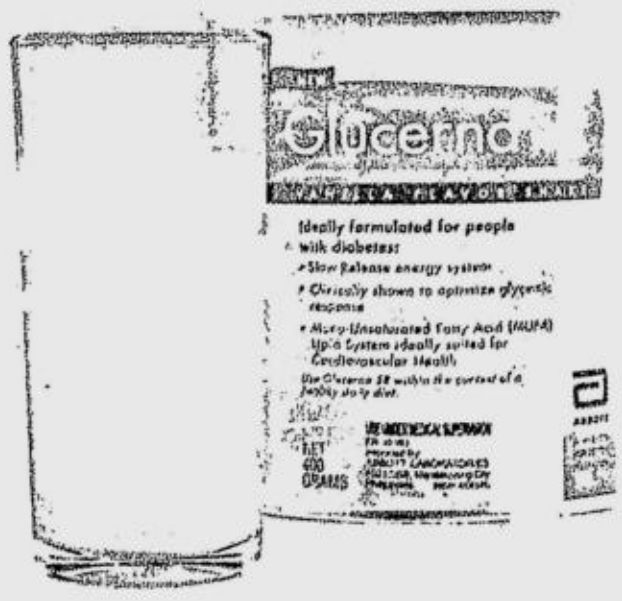

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DR. Christiaan Tanghe, Gul Tanghe, Nelly Bengson and Mercy Tuason

PORTUGUESE Ambassador Joao da Silva, Mexican Ambassador Erendira Araceli Campos, Ambassador Lauro Baja, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Norma Baja and Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki

Aga Muhlach Pasko
Jollibee
Ka-11 Taon

We've Reached
1.1 M on our 11th Year

THANK YOU to everyone who took part in MaAga ang Pasko sa Jollibee!

Your contribution and generosity have truly gone a long way in helping make Christmas a very memorable and joyous occasion for the less privileged beneficiaries of the longest running toy and book drive inspired by Aga Muhlach.

Among those who contributed to this year's success were the partner establishments who pledged their all-out support and participation in the program.

Included in the list are DSWD, STI College, ATS Solutions 2GO, Pricesmart, Globe G-Cash, Selecta, Vibal Publishing, Goodwill Bookstore and Sci-tech. And for the first time in *MaAga*'s history, there were also volunteers from Hands on Manila and Rotaract Parañaque Lakambini Active Youth (PLAY) who took time out to help sort the toys and books.

MaAga ang Pasko sa Jollibee has definitely paved the way for goodwill and selflessness to reign supreme in the lives of thousands of Filipinos while helping realize the simple dreams of young hearts.

YOU helped make a million children happier on our 11th year

Schools:
Academia de Pulilan • Acelina School Inc • Achiever's Child Care Pre-School & Tutorial Center • AIIAS International Elementary School Amadeus College • Amazing Grace School • Ann Arbor Montessori Learning Center Inc • Ann Mana's Kiddie Center • Another Home to Grow Learning Center • Arch Angel Montessori Learning Center • Bahung Alvarez Christian Academy • Bethel Christian Academy • Biblo Baptist Educational Institution • Building Blocks Pre-School • Bulacan Commercial School • Bulacan State University • Cambridge Child Dev't Center • Cambridge Child Dev't Center – Annex • Casa Montessori Internationale • Casa Real Montessori • Cebu Trinity Christian • Chiara School Inc • Child's Place Nursery • Christ Saviour Christian Academy • Christian Cathedral Academy • Christian Values School • Creata Learning Center • Daniel Kinder House • De La Salle Canlubang • Don Bosco Technical Center • Don Bosco Technological Center • Escuela de San Lorenzo • Esteban International (FlameTree) • Esteban International School • Faith Christian Academy • Family Montessori Pre-School • Florida Christian Academy • Ford Academy of Arts • Fortuna Elem. School • Froebel Academy • Genesis Montessori • Golden Lampstand Grade School • Great Christian Academy • Gutad Elem School • Gutad High School • Headway School of Giftedness • His Sanctuary Christian Academy • Holy Rosary School • Immaculate Heart of Mary School • Integrative School of Quezon City • International Montessori Learning Center • Jose Rizal University • KDCF Kinder Care • Kinder Minds Learning Center • La Inmaculada Conception • La Salle Greenhills • LEAP School for Young Children • Llamas School • Lorenzo Ruiz de Manila • Lourdes School • Lyceum of the Philippines • Manila Central University • Mary Help of Christian School • Mary the Queen • Merry Bells Pre-School House • Mon-El Learning Center • Monterey School of Learning • Montessori School of Pulilan • Mother Theresa School (Bacoor) • Mother Theresa School (Gen Trias) • Multiple Intelligences International School • National University • New Jerusalem School • Ormoc Immaculate Conception School Foundation • Ormoc Kinderland School • Our Lady of Guadalupe College • PAREF Southridge School • Pasig Catholic High School • Philippine Christian University • Philippine College of Technology • Philippine Normal University • Playcare Learning Center – Laguna • Playcare Learning Center – Alabang • Polytechnic University of the Philippines • Red Apple Play School • Reedley International School • Sacred Heart Academy • Saint Mary Magdalene School • Salazar Colleges of the Science & Institute Technology • San Beda Integrated School • Santa Theresa Learning Center • Sienna School of Naga • Southwestern University • St. Anthony Learning Center • St. Anthony School • St. Clement Academy • St. Dionysius School • St. Joseph's College • St. Mark's Montessori • St. Mary's Academy • St. Mary's College • St. Paul College • St. Scholastica's College-Manila • St. Therese Learning Center • St. Therese Lisieux School • St. Thomas Moore School Annex • St. Thomas MooreSchool Main • Statefields School • Sto. Nino Smart Child Learning School • Sunny Hill Montessori • Tabunok School of Learning • Talisay Malayan Academy • Technological University of the Philippines • The Children's Ark Preparatory School • Trinity College • Tumble Tots Learning Center • UCCP Paralang Pag-asa • UM Bolton • University of Asia and the Pacific • University of Mindanao • University of thePhilippines – Diliman • UV Gullas Pardo High School

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Outstanding Pinoys honored

MANG BEN FARRALES, PERMANENT REP-resentative of the Philippines to the United Nations Ambassador **Lauro Baja** and Dr. **Adolfo Bellosillo** were named recently by the Philippine Jaycee Senate and the Insular Group of Companies as the 2005 Top Outstanding Filipinos (Tofil) in fashion, arts and culture, bilateral and multilateral diplomacy and medicine.

BEN Farrales, Ambassador Lauro Baja, permanent representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, and Dr. Adolfo Bellosillo

DIPLOMATIC SWIRL

By Amiga

Letty Syquia and **Nelly Bengson**, close friends of Ambassador and Ms Baja, tendered an intimate dinner for the couple. Present were Executive Secretary **Eduardo Ermita**, Speaker and Ms **Jose de Venecia**, United States Charge d'Affaires and Ms **Paul Jones**, Mexican Ambassador **Erendira Araceli Campos**, Laotian Ambassador and Mme. **Phiane Philakone**, Portuguese Ambassador and Mme. **Joao da Silva**, Romanian Ambassador and Mme. **Radu Homescu**, Japanese Ambassador **Ryuichiro Yamazaki**, and lots of others of that ilk.

HOSTESS Letty Syquia with Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and Japanese Ambassador Ryuichiro Yamazaki

Excel Award

Another multi-awardee, **Aniceto** (a.k.a. Chito) **Sobrepeña**, executive vice president and executive director of the Metrobank Foundation, was presented the CEO Excel Award (Communication Excellence in Organizations) by the International Association of Business Communicators-Philippines, in ceremonies held at the ballroom of the InterContinental Hotel. INQUIRER president **Sandy Prieto Romualdez** delivered the keynote address.

Metrobank Foundation is engaged in various programs that seek to promote excellence in different fields, such as its Search for Outstanding Teachers and its Search for Outstanding Philippine Soldiers and Outstanding Policemen in Service, as well as the Metrobank Art and Design Excellence competitions. Of course, it supports programs of the Filipino Heritage Festival in May.

Annual ball

The 30th Annual Consular Ball, co-chaired by Monaco Consul **Fortune Ledesma** and Romania ConGen **Sergio Ortiz-Luiz Jr.**, was an outstanding success. Over 700 guests attended. Held in the ballroom of Shangri-La Makati, **Nonoy Lopez** and his Band performed nonstop but, surprise, surprise, not a DJ (dance instructor) in sight; the men actually put on their dancing shoes, too!

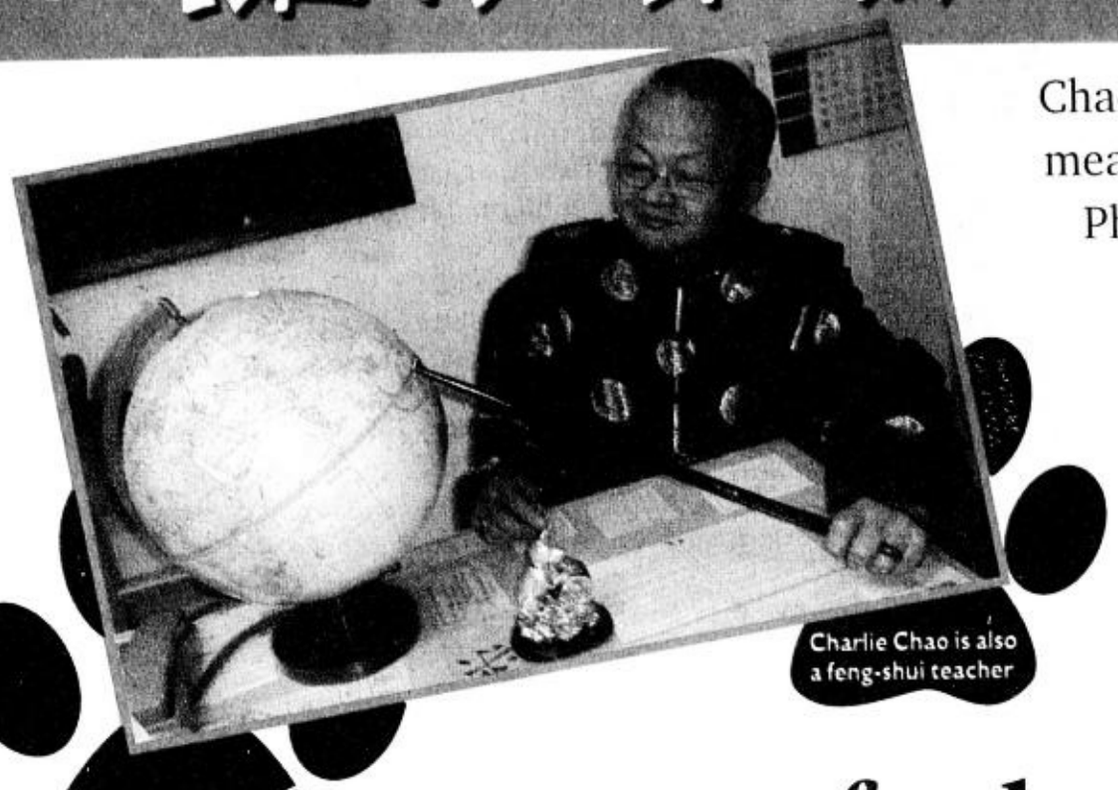
With emcee **Johnny Litton** at the podium, awards were given to co-chairs Ledesma and Ortiz-Luis for working so hard to make the ball a success; to US third secretary **Greg Alms** for active involvement in corps activities; and Star publisher **Max Soliven** for best speaker. Newly appointed Supreme Court chief justice **Artemio Panganiban**, former Honduras consul, was conferred an honorary membership in the corps.

CONSUL Sergio Ortiz Luis of Romania, Consul John Fielder of Britain, Consul Fortune Ledesma of Monaco, and Consul Vince Carlos of Ivory Coast

Private audience

Consul Fortune was the only visiting consul granted a 15-minute private audience by **Prince Albert** of Monaco on the occasion of his accession to the throne of Monaco last year. The prince reminisced fondly of his visit to the fabulous resort of Amanpulo in Palawan. He was invited to the inauguration of a chapter of the Monaco-Asia Society by Fortune. Our local paparazzi should have a field day if he comes.

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2006


Charlie Chao is also a feng-shui teacher

2006 is a year of rebuilding and reconstruction

By Joel V. Nigos

TAKING CUE FROM what had happened during the previous years, the year 2006 or the Year of the Fire Dog, would be a year of rebuilding and reconstruction, says feng shui master Prof. Charlie Chao, considered as the first feng-shui teacher in the Philippines and in the whole of Asia.

Chao explains that this is so because the universe follows a cycle based on the 12 signs and the five elements. The world, including the Philippines, had seen darker days during the previous years, and following the cycle, these should bring forth brighter days ahead. Chao used the year 1946 as a parallel, or the year right after World War II, the last time we had a Fire Dog Year. He says that the war has brought destruction to the world but after it had ended, the years that followed saw massive rebuilding and reconstruction in all fronts.

Yi-jing philosophy

Chao is a master in Chinese literature and history. He pioneered in unraveling the

2006/ F2

Chao says that destruction in our present situation could mean getting rid of the old to give way to the new. In the Philippines, this could mean change in the system of government through Charter amendments.

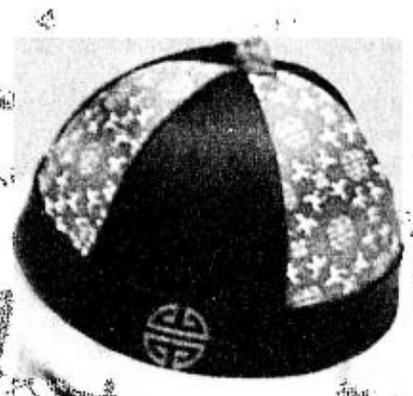
Kung Hei Fat Choi!

We are one with the nation in wishing the entire Chinese community peace, joy and prosperity in the Year of the Fire Dog!

Allow us to take this opportunity to acknowledge your unwavering support and express our sincere gratitude for making our success possible.

Warm greetings from your Maybank family.

Maybank



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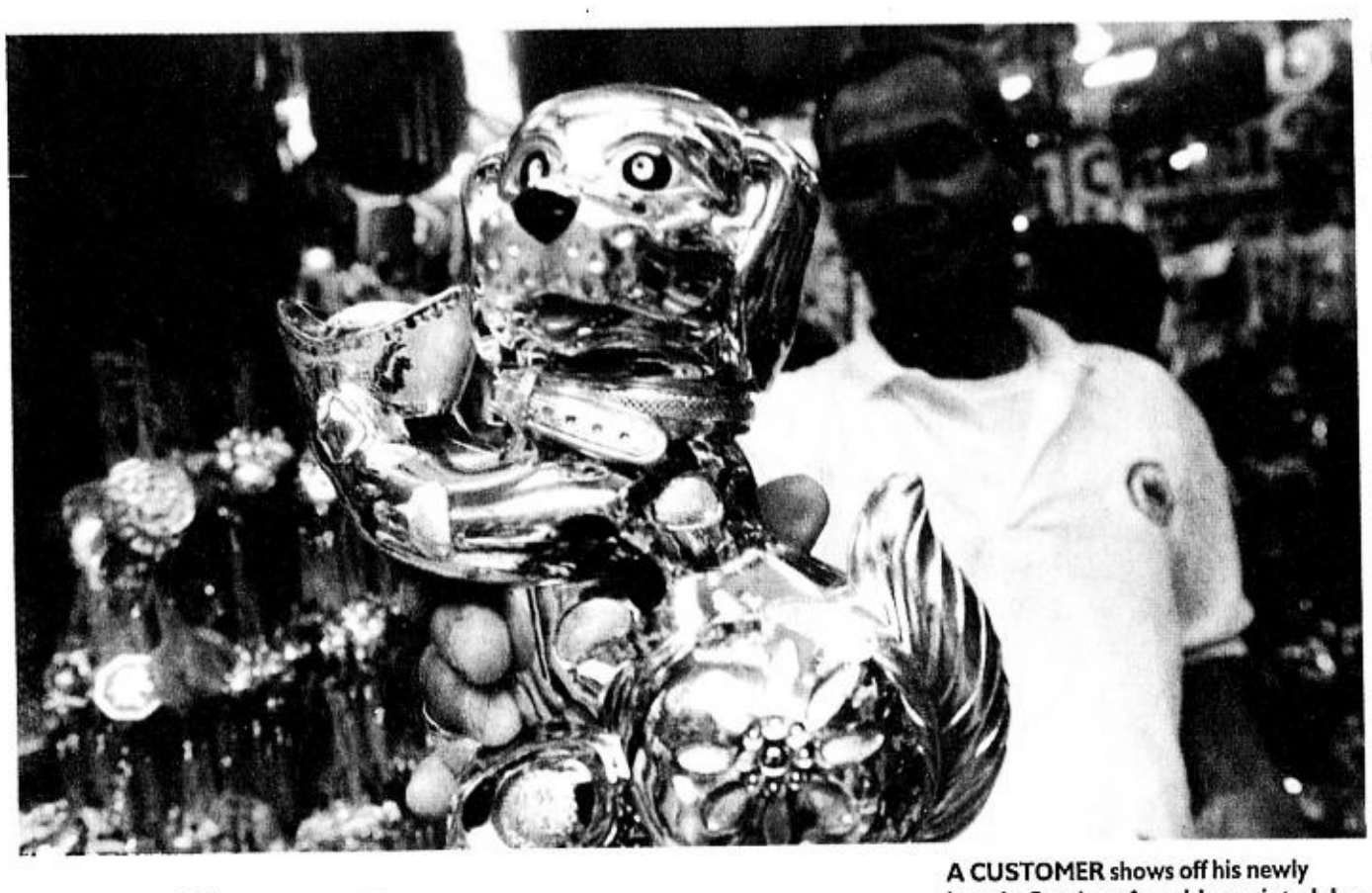
HAVE A JOYFUL CHINESE NEW YEAR!

Kimberly-Clark Philippines Inc.



A CUSTOMER shows off his newly bought figurine of a golden painted dog Jan. 26 at Manila's Chinatown district. Filipinos buy Chinese-inspired charms as Chinese all over the world celebrate the Lunar New Year known this year as the Year of the Dog.

AP

2006 is a year of rebuilding and reconstruction

From page F1

scientific basis of Chinese geomancy based on the Yi-jing (I-Ching) philosophy. He also authored the "Yi-jing Divination" or "I-Ching Cards."

Based on the Chinese Lunar Calendar, he says, the Year of the Fire Dog or "Red Dog" starts on Jan. 29, 2006 (Sunday) of the Western calendar. This period ends on Feb. 17, 2007 (Saturday). In Chinese tradition, firecrackers are used to celebrate the season in welcoming the New Year and sending off the old year and its misfortune. A practice which has been adapted by the West including the Philippines every Jan. 1, through these the Chinese expect good fortune, good health and new life.

In the Yi-jing theory, the universe has five elements—wood, fire, earth, metal and water. Each element has its own color, such as green represents wood, red for fire, yellow for earth, white for metal and black for water. Hence, this year of Fire Dog is also known as "Red Dog" year.

The Fire/Red Dog Year happens only once in every 60 years in the Chinese Horoscope Cycle. Its elements are fire and earth, with a storage of fire. Consequently, this year will be a "dry" year or an aggressive year.

Just like what occurred in the last Fire Dog Year, there is a big chance to make 2006 a bright year. But before reconstruction could come along, there should be destruction first.

Chao says that destruction in our present situation could mean getting rid of the old to give way to the new. In the Philippine situation, this could be the change in the system of government through Charter amendments.

"The old should be totally demolished," he narrates. "The only chance for our country to move on is through Charter change. Charter change would mean sacrifice for our national leaders or destruction of the old system which is needed to pave the way for reconstruction and rebuilding. Only through Charter change would the political crisis end. This could also bring about better economic opportunities for our country."

This is so because, as Chao explains, the rule of reconstruction and rebuilding states that destruction or total change should come first.

"If this would not happen, the fire element in the Year of Fire Dog would continue to hound the present which would cause the continued fighting among opposing forces in the country," he warns.

But Chao maintains that based on the geological environment of the Philippines, Charter change is inevitable.

"The Philippines is located at the lower portion southeast to east of China. The Philippines is also surrounded by oceans, which belong to low-fire and low-earth zones. This means that the Philippines needs both fire and earth for support. Fortunately, this Fire Dog Year is favorable to our country. This is conducive to Charter change."

Yi-Jing (I-Ching) is the first literature and science book in China. It is the study of "changes" of the universe. Yi-Ching (I-Ching) states that only "change" can help a country overcome all misfortunes and obstacles it is facing. With this, sacrifices should be made and national policies and systems should be changed right now with full confidence, otherwise, the "chance" will be gone.

"If our leaders and our elected government officials will sacrifice and will work together for this "chance," there is still hope for our nation. Hence, our political crisis will end, our economy will recover, unemployment and poverty will be lessened, strikes and rallies will decline, peace and order situation will be controlled, foreign exchange rates will be stable, foreign investments will rise, tourism businesses will grow, and eventually, construction and real estate, as well as the stock market will prosper," says Chao.

General guidelines

The lucky feng shui orientations for 2006 are East and West. When building a house, placement of altar, transferring the main altar/gate, and replacing tomb, these objects should be facing the aforementioned directions (orientations) to be more auspicious and favorable.

For your guidelines, the Year of the Fire Dog is in contrast with the Dragon especially to those who were born in the years of the Metal Dragon (1940) and Water Dragon (1952). The luckiest personalities are those who were born under the signs of Tiger, Rabbit, Snake and Horse. Moderately lucky personalities are those who were born under the signs of Ox, Goat, Rooster and Pig. Unlucky personalities are those who were born under the signs of Rat, Dragon, Monkey and Dog, with some exceptions though.

In general, lucky colors for the Year of the Fire Dog are red, yellow, gold and brown. These colors should be used for fashion and designs purposes only. These colors are based on the elements of the Year Fire Dog, since the color red represents fire and colors yellow, gold, and brown represents earth. The lucky colors and lucky gemstones (as differentiated from birth stone) of a person are based on a person's birth date and time.

Businesses to go into

Chao says that since 2006 is a fire year, businesses that are related to electricity would be prosperous. Telecommunications, electronics and computers are some of these. Food and restaurant businesses would also not be left out as well as those that involve fashion and design. However, the agriculture, aquaculture, lumber, garments and textile businesses would still be challenged.

This year would also be a very active year for the local movie industry, according to Chao. More movies would be produced as compared to the previous years. This would mean better days for the movie industry though government regulation and government enforcement of applicable laws are needed. Government assistance in the form of tax incentives and subsidies is a must. Also, more young actors and actresses, and singers are expected to rise and news and intrigues about immoral relationships and affairs would be less.

Tourism is one industry that is expected to boom. The country would experience unexpected increase in visitor arrivals. Thanks to the efforts of the tourism department in tapping niche markets and providing the much-needed support to the private sector that are involved in the industry.

The world, as usual, would be shocked by natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, plane accidents, ship mishaps, drought (El Niño), floods, fire hazards, but none in the magnitude of the Asian tsunami that hit Southeast Asia in December 2004.

And since 2006 is a fire dog year, diseases that are related to heat such as fever, kidney failure, cough, and lung disorders would be more prevalent.

Macapagal-Arroyo

Chao, in his fearless predictions last year, had foreseen that despite efforts to unseat President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang, she would continue to remain in office as her signs consider her to be lucky in 2005. That was why, even in the face of defections of her allies to the opposition especially at the height of the "Hello Garci" controversy, the growing discontent of the people to her administration as evidenced by recent surveys, and the perceived fractions in the military, Macapagal-Arroyo has stayed in office until this day.

Events that had happened when there were plans to oust the President had favored her. The country's winning the overall championship in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games, the appreciation of the peso against the US dollar making it the best performing currency in the world, and the recent victory of Manny Pacquiao against Mexican Erik Morales came at the hills of rumored ouster plans. None of these materializing can be attributed to the favorable signs of the President.

But Chao again warns that the President's chart only gives her good signs until 2007. "The things she would do between now and 2007 would determine if she would be able to finish her term up to 2010," Chao explains. That's why, he further adds, that Charter change is a must. The President actively pushing for it just means that she is on the right track.

Chao maintains that he predicted the downfall of ousted President Joseph Estrada as early as 1999.

"In my earlier predictions I said that he would only serve up to 2001, which what had happened," he says adding that despite efforts to revive his political career, he would not be able to do so because his signs suggest that his career is now already dead. Chao also says that former President Fidel Ramos would not have any position even with the change in the system but would continue to have a major influence in the affairs of government. He further adds that the coming prime minister is a new personality.

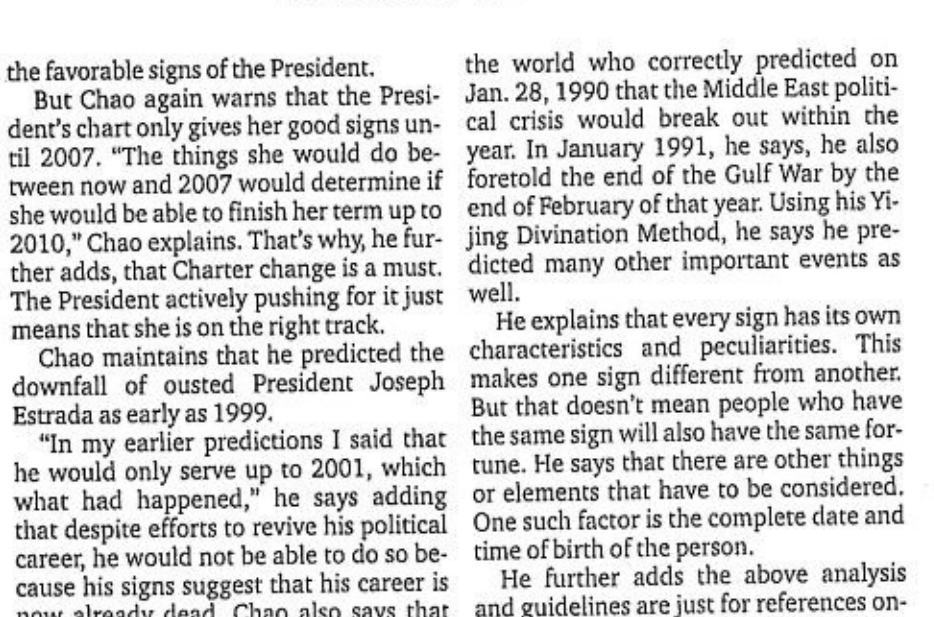
Chao says that he was the only one in the world who correctly predicted on Jan. 28, 1990 that the Middle East political crisis would break out within the year. In January 1991, he says, he also foretold the end of the Gulf War by the end of February of that year. Using his Yi-jing Divination Method, he says he predicted many other important events as well.

He explains that every sign has its own characteristics and peculiarities. This makes one sign different from another. But that doesn't mean people who have the same sign will also have the same fortune. He says that there are other things or elements that have to be considered. One such factor is the complete date and time of birth of the person.

He further adds the above analysis and guidelines are just for references only. "Predictions are just for guidance only so the negative vibes can be warded off," he says. He also reminds everyone that even if you have good feng shui, good fortune would not come on a silver platter. You still have to work for it so that it would come soonest.

Tourism is one industry that is expected to boom. The country would experience unexpected increase in visitor arrivals

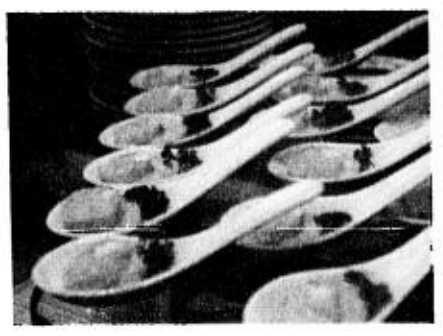
Chao warns that President Macapacal-Arroyo's chart only gives her good signs until 2007. The things she would do between now and 2007 would determine if she would finish her term up to 2010. That's why Charter change is a must. He further adds that the new prime minister is a new personality



FIREWORKS, round fruits, clothes with circle design are still the hottest items on sale for welcoming the new year. These round things will bring luck, according to the Chinese.

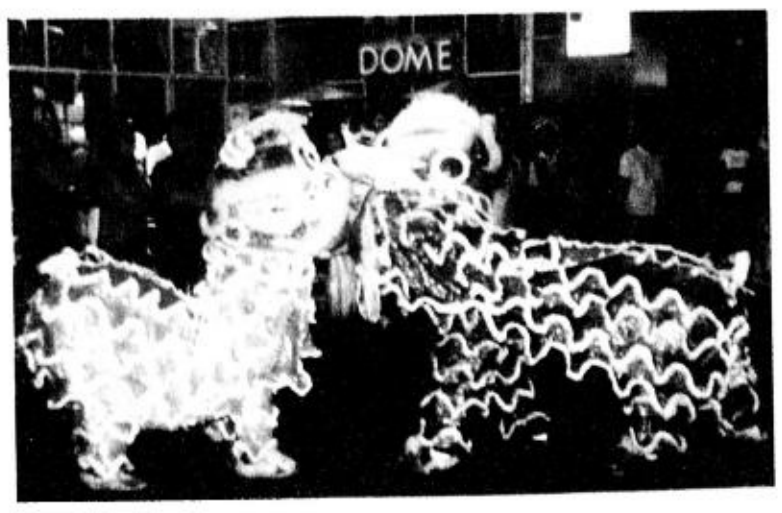
JOAN BONDOC

Celebrate Chinese New Year at Diamond's Palm Court



WELCOME THE year of the dog with an abundant array of delectable international cuisine. As Chinese New Year is traditionally celebrated with family, Diamond Hotel Philippines makes it easier for you to host your own family gathering. The hotel's Palm Court Café offers different international cuisine each day to suit your discerning palate: Traditional Spanish dishes on Mondays, conventional American fare on Tuesdays, classic Italian every Wednesday, spicy Tex-Mex on Thursdays, fresh seafood concoctions during Fridays, exotic South East Asian cuisine every Saturday, and a parade of scrumptious international selections on Sundays.

Lunch buffet at the Palm Court Café costs Php850++ per person; dinner at Php900++ . Diners below 10 years old are charged only half the price--- which is perfect for families who wish to bring the kids along for the Chinese New Year celebration. Lunch buffet is between 1130am to 230pm; dinner buffet from 6pm until 1030pm. For inquiries, please call 5283000.



Chinese New Year at the SM Supermalls

SHOPPERS CAN TAKE PART IN SOME of the best loved traditional Chinese rituals as the SM Supermalls welcome the Year of the Dog.

Not to be missed is the Dragon and Lion Dance, the highlight of the Chinese New Year celebrations, which will be held at all SM Supermalls today. Simulating the movements of the river spirit, the performance is complete with drums, gongs, and cymbals to dispel evil and bring good luck and prosperity of the coming New Year.

Legend has it that an evil monster ravaged a Chinese village one winter's eve thousands of years ago. After the monster returned the following year, villagers made a plan to frighten the dragon by hanging red banners all over the place. They also prepared firecrackers, drums, and gongs to create loud sounds to scare the beast away. The plan worked, and the celebration lasted for several days with villagers visiting each other by handing gifts, dancing, and eating—the first Chinese New Year.

The Lion Dance, on the other hand, is believed to repel demons. Each lion has two dancers—one that maneuvers the head, and the other the back.

Other traditional dances that will delight mall goers are the Yangge Dance and the Waist Drum Dance, which will also be performed today. The Yangge Dance traditionally greets the coming of spring, with Yangge groups visiting households to wish them a happy new year. The dancers wave red silk waist bands as they perform with the drums accompanying the performance.

The Waist Drum Dance, on the other hand, is very vigorous with dancers jumping into the air while beating their drums and shouting "*haihai!*", simulating soldiers fighting each other. The dancers wear white war gowns with a towel tied on their heads and flags on their backs, accentuated with designs of bronze wares.

There's also a lot of fun with Knorr for SM mall goers. They can bring home a Fortune Cookie for every purchase, and Pick a Prize at the Knorr Booth for every purchase of 6 packs of Knorr Real Chinese Soup. They can also learn the latest recipes from Knorr Master Chefs.

More prizes will be given out today. Every purchase of six packs of Knorr Real Chinese Soup entitles one to a raffle coupon and chance to win exciting prizes. These include a Noritake Dining Set worth P7,500 and Knorr Gift Pack as the First Prize; a Moulinex Small Kitchen Showcase and Knorr Gift Pack for the Second Prize; and a Family Dinner for 5 at Chinese Monk worth P2,500 plus a Knorr Gift Pack as Third Prize.

Knorr booths are scheduled on Feb. 9 to 12 at SM City Pampanga, SM City Batangas, SM City Lucena, SM City Baguio, and SM City Marilao.

Welcome Year of the Dog with luck, good fortune

BY THIS TIME OF THE YEAR, MOST New Year's resolutions have been subtly forgotten as the noise of the parties and celebrations died down and everyone has gone back to the usual routines, usual deadlines, and the monotony of everyday happenings. Fortunately, all hope is not lost, as there's a second chance to start afresh with the celebration of the Chinese New Year today.

Eastwood City has a lot of activities in store to welcome the year of the dog today. There will be a series of events all geared to give you luck and good fortune for the coming year: Free Feng Shui consultations at the Eastwood City Walk 2, a Psychic Fair at the Eastwood City Walk 2, 6 to 10 p.m. and a Prosperity Tree on display at the Central Plaza. And, of course, true to Chinese tradition, there would also be the Lion Dance and a Grand Fireworks Display at the Central Plaza.

The Chinese New Year is swathed with traditions and rituals to ensure that lady luck is on our side. At the Eastwood City Psychic Fair, you can delve into the secrets of the future and let the experts from the Inner Mind Association of the Philippines reveal the secrets to success in love, money, family, health and career.

Take your pick from tarot card reading, angel card reading, aura and vibration reading, Egyptian card reading, the ancient art of runes, saiwala, palmistry, numerology, pendulum, graphology, and listen to the expert feng shui advice of Dr. Andy Tan.

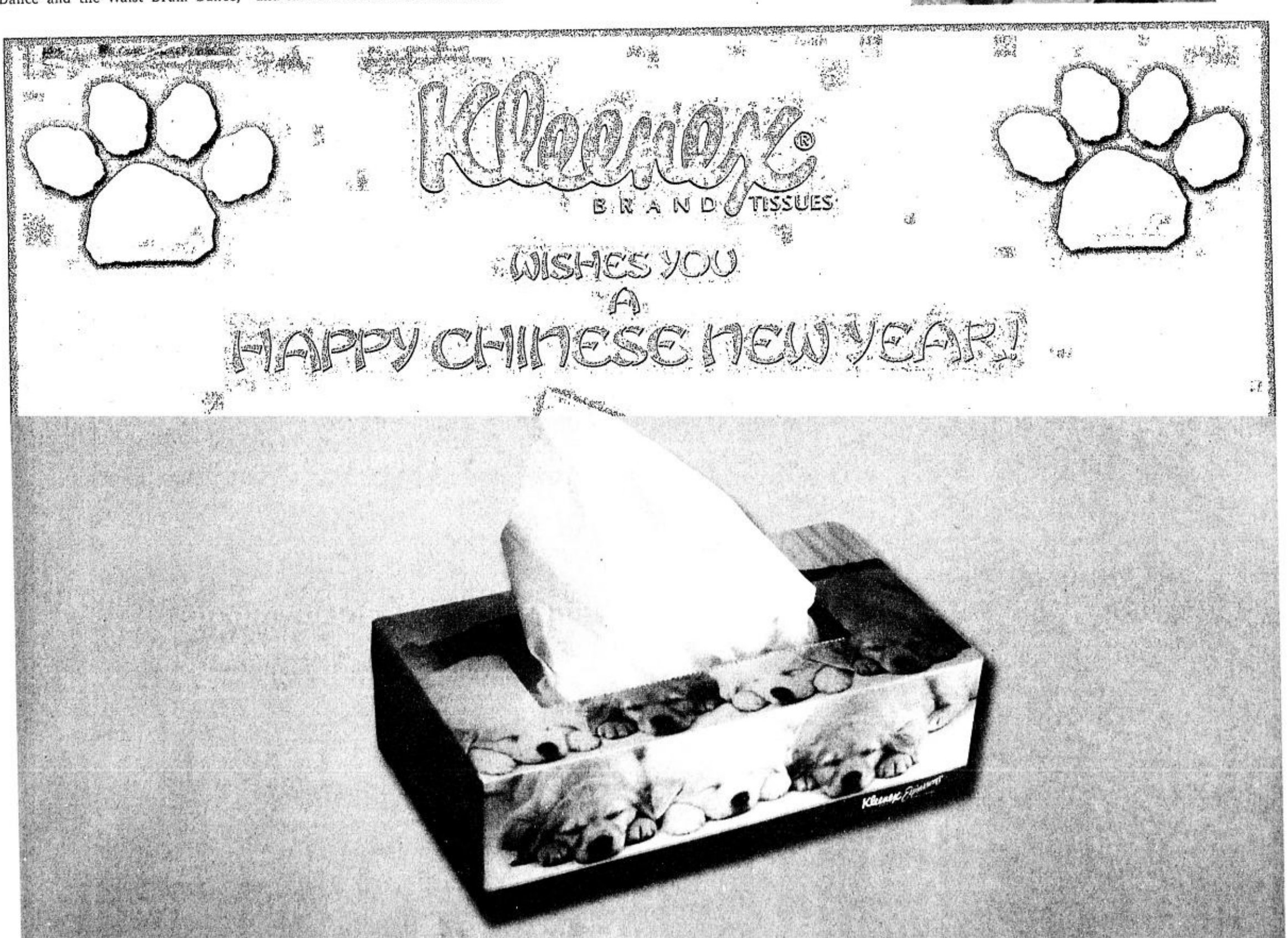
On display at the Eastwood City Central Plaza is the Prosperity Tree wherein patrons can make a wish for good luck. Patrons are invited to write their names on a special Ang Pao and toss it upwards towards the tree for good luck. For every Ang Pao tossed on the Prosperity Tree, Eastwood City will pledge P10 to the UP Institute of Health in behalf of the customer whose name appears on the Ang Pao. This is open to all patrons with a minimum single/accumulated purchase of P500.

So if you feel that you didn't quite start the New Year right and you need a little extra luck, be sure to be at the Chinese New Year celebration at Eastwood City from now until Jan. 31. For details, call 687-6770 or 0917-8-EWCITY.

KUNG HEI FAT CHOI AT THE TOWER CLUB

Celebrate the prosperity of the coming Year of the Fire Dog with gustatory treats prepared by the Tower Club's very own Chef Cheong. From Jan. 28 to Feb. 15, the Taipan offers a special a la carte menu plus two Chinese New Year set menus priced at P988 and P1,288. For dine-in members, special limited-supply Chinese Horoscopes will be given as good luck tokens to greet the New Year. The Tower Club is located at the 33rd and 34th floors of the Philamlife Tower, Paseo de Roxas, Makati. For member and guest reservations, call 885-7085.

Kleenex® BRAND TISSUES
WISHES YOU
A
HAPPY CHINESE NEW YEAR!



CELEBRATE THE YEAR OF THE DOG WITH US ON JANUARY 29, 2006 AT 7PM
AT EASTWOOD CITYWALK CENTRAL PLAZA*
DRAGON DANCE · CULTURAL SHOW · FIREWORKS DISPLAY
*Presented in part by MagnaVision
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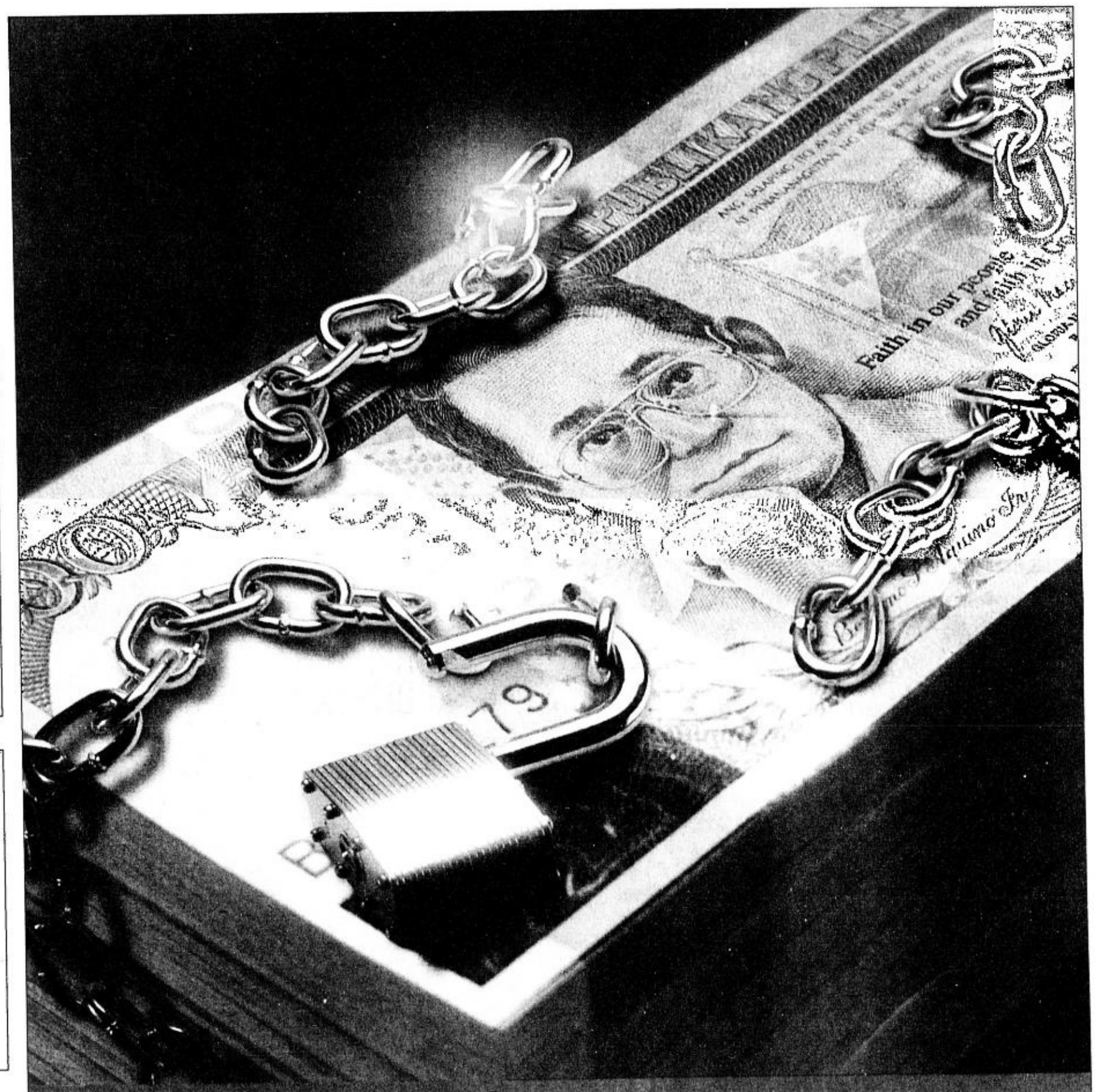
CHINESE NEW YEAR 2006

Your fortunes in the Year of the Fire Dog

There are 12 signs according to the Chinese Horoscope Cycle. We were born on any of the 12 signs. The following are each sign's fortunes in the Year of the Fire Dog according to Prof. Charlie Chao. Once again, Chao reminds everyone that these are for our guidance only. If we have good feng shui, we still need to act so that good fortune would come soonest. If we have bad feng shui, we also need to act so we could ward them off. *Joel V. Nigos*



RAT

(1912, 1924, 1936, 1948, 1960, 1972, 1984, 1996)

There are two unlucky stars beside you. You should take extra precaution when making decisions. Don't be too aggressive in pursuing your plans. Also, be cautious when driving late and when traveling long distances to avoid accidents. Make sure that you and your parents have a regular physical check-up for your parents might get sick or pass away. Avoid visiting sick people and attending funerals or interments. It is advisable to do more charitable works to enhance good karma.

OX

(1913, 1925, 1937, 1949, 1961, 1973, 1985, 1997)

Your star is weak, however, there are still two lucky stars beside you. If you remain humble and patient, everything will run smoothly. Always mind your own business, follow the laws and don't be too greedy. Refrain from arguing with others to keep away from envious people who may bring you unnecessary troubles. You will have some happy occasions and your wealth will increase.

TIGER

(1914, 1926, 1938, 1950, 1962, 1974, 1986, 1998)

Your star is bright and shiny. Your wealth will increase, your career will improve. You might be promoted from your present post. There will be helpful people that will support your plans and projects. For the students who were born under the Tiger sign, you will pass all of your examinations as long as you study hard. However, there is an unlucky star close to you. Take precaution regarding your health. Be cautious while driving especially when traveling long distances to avoid accidents.

RABBIT

(1915, 1927, 1939, 1951, 1963, 1975, 1987, 1999)

Your star turns out to be bright and strong. It is the right time for you to pursue your plans and projects. However, avoid being a guarantor to prevent any troubles with friends. Be more humble and avoid living a luxurious life to keep away from envious people. Donate and do more charitable works.

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Your fortunes...

From page G1

DRAGON

(1916, 1928, 1940, 1952, 1964, 1976, 1988, 2000)

Your horoscope clashes with the Year of the Dog. Take extra precaution when quarreling with others to prevent lawsuits. Always mind your own business and be more careful when making decisions. Refrain from cherry blossom affairs in order to have a peaceful life. Avoid visiting sick people and attending funerals or interments.

MONKEY

(1920, 1932, 1944, 1956, 1968, 1980, 1992, 2004)

Your star is dark and there are three unlucky stars surrounding you. It is not the right time to pursue your plans and projects. Avoid visiting sick people and attending funerals or interments. Be cautious when driving late especially when traveling long distances. Don't be too aggressive in expanding your businesses. Be contented to have a happier and more peaceful life.

SNAKE

(1917, 1929, 1941, 1953, 1965, 1977, 1989, 2001)

Your star is bright. You will have many happy occasions. Your wealth and your business will prosper. This is the lucky year to get married. However, avoid visiting sick people and attending funerals because it might cause you to be sick and it might cause you to lose your wealth. Beware of burglary and thieves-always take good care of your personal belongings and always make sure that your house is secured.

ROOSTER

(1921, 1933, 1945, 1957, 1969, 1981, 1993, 2005)

This year is favorable for the male "roosters." Having public relationships are good and helpful people will back you up on your projects and on your career. However, refrain from luxuries and avoid quarreling with others to keep away from envious people who may bring you unnecessary troubles. For the female "roosters," on the other hand, take extra precaution regarding love affairs and temptations to avoid family quarrels-be controlled and be aware for everything to run smoothly.

HORSE

(1918, 1930, 1942, 1954, 1966, 1978, 1990, 2002)

There are two lucky stars beside you. You will be inspired to flourish your projects as well as your studies. Wealth will increase and career will grow. However, refrain from quarreling with others to prevent lawsuits and losing wealth. Beware of envious people who may bring you unnecessary troubles. Always be humble and patient to prevent anything bad that may happen.

DOG

(1922, 1934, 1946, 1958, 1970, 1982, 1994)

Although your resistance is weak, nevertheless, you will be lucky in your studies. You will have a chance to go abroad for a higher study. However, there are unlucky stars surrounding you. Refrain from visiting sick people and attending funerals or interments. Take extra precaution with your wealth and make sure to have a regular physical check-up. Maintain a low profile and maintain your patience for everything to run smoothly.

GOAT

(1919, 1931, 1943, 1955, 1967, 1979, 1991, 2003)

This year is a lucky and favorable year for the female "goats." There will be happy occasions and wealth will increase. For the male "goats," on the other hand, take extra precaution when being emotionally involved with women-this may cause a family quarrel or even cause a family break-up. Refrain from any unnecessary activities to keep away from envious people who may bring you unnecessary troubles. Always pray and do more charitable works to enhance good karma.

PIG

(1923, 1935, 1947, 1959, 1971, 1983, 1995)

For this year, you will have many happy occasions and there are good people who can help you solve your problems. However, always be humble and patient. Don't overwork yourselves for you might get sick. Always take extra care regarding your health. Avoid debating with others. Always pray and do more charitable works to be luckier and for everything to run smoothly.

FAT CHOI OPENS AT 179 CYBERZONE BUILDING, SM CITY NORTH

Fat Choi Hongkong Style fast food recently opened another outlet at 179 Cyberzone Building, SM City North. A subsidiary of Mongkok, Fat Choi serves delicious noodles, congees, rice toppings, dimsums, siopaos and Chinese desserts. Present during the store opening were (from left) Fat Choi franchisees Ellen Lucero, Nora Borbe, Chris Sumbingco and Brenda Cancio with president of East Pearl Corp Franchisor, Virma Vergel de dios and Ophie Dee.

Chinese New Year with China Bank

Jan. 29, marks the start of the year of the Fire Dog according to the Chinese Lunar Calendar. It is said to possess the best of human traits - loyalty, honesty and confidence in people. The Fire Dog is believed to bring prosperity, good health and success to anyone in the 4704th Chinese Year.

To welcome the Chinese New Year, homes and offices are adorned with charms meant to balance "chi" and invite positive karma. China Bank, in its many years of success, has come up with its own traditions-one of which is sharing a tasty treat. Last Friday, Jan. 27, all of China Bank's 141 branches nationwide, treated China Bank clients to free fortune cookies.

The fortune cookie, a sweet ending to a scrumptious Chinese meal, is a fun way of divining the future through words of wisdom.

"It has been our tradition to welcome the new year with warm smiles and fun activities with our clients. It's our way of thanking them for their trust and support in the previous year, and for our continued partnership with them in the coming years," shares branch banking group head and SVP Nancy D. Yang.

China Bank is the first privately owned local commercial bank in the country. Making its clients' success its business for almost nine decades, the Bank continues to develop and offer products and services that are attuned to the times, including China Bank Online for Internet and mobile banking. As 2005 closed with a milestone, may China Bank be your partner in another year of good fortune.

First feng shui extravaganza blasts off with a bang

READY YOURSELVES FOR A BETTER YEAR ahead.

That was one of the good news revealed by Lillian Too at the country's first feng shui extravaganza recently held at the Westin Philippine Plaza.

The event, dubbed as "Lillian Too's Feng Shui Extravaganza 2006: How to Increase Luck & Good Fortune in the Fire Dog Year 2006," revealed the forecast for the year from one of the world's leading exponents on feng shui. Author of over 100 best-selling books, which have been translated to 35 languages, Lillian Too also is the owner and founder of the World of Feng Shui (WOFS) boutiques with a worldwide presence having 50 boutiques in five continents and has a website called WOFS.COM, having around one million hits per month.

Feng shui, contrary to popular belief, is not a religion or superstition. Too imparted, "It is a wonderful living skill. It is not just about being rich or wealthy but bringing harmony into your home." By creating that harmony, all else follows. Things fall in their proper places.

According to Too, the fire dog year will be a better year than 2005 financially and commercially. This year's feng shui chart shows a well-balanced chart with all the five elements present. Such a chart combination rarely happens. Another reason why this fire dog year is a more productive year is that there are two springs unlike last year which had none. Spring for the Chinese happens on Feb. 4. When the new year occurs before spring, a good year is guaranteed. Since the fire dog year is on Jan. 29 and the next Chinese new year is before Feb. 4, then this year has two springs.

"Spring is when things get started, when things sprout," said Too. Therefore, this year is good for starting new ventures and welcoming new opportunities.

Too's highly entertaining presentation also included flying stars feng shui, which tackles what part of the home is afflicted and what direction is auspicious. She also provided ways to avert the bad luck and how to enhance the good.

What's in store for the different animal signs was also highlighted.

Too also predicted that fire industries will do best in the fire dog year. Earth industries have good prospects. Wood industries do better than last year. Water industries become competitive and metal industries get badly hit.

The first feng shui extravaganza organized by WOFS Philippines chair and CEO, and a feng shui expert herself, Marites Allen, proved to be a success. The event, which has more than 400 people in attendance, was full of positive energy. Too is indeed very exuberant and her magnetic personality is infectious. It was evident that participants were very pleased. At the end of the presentation, they gave her a standing ovation. Surely, the next feng shui extravaganza will draw more people as Lillian noted that one needs to update his/her feng shui every year. Lillian says in parting, "You should never be afraid of the ills that may come. That's why I am here - to tell you how feng shui can enhance fortune and remedy afflictions. Feng shui has changed my life. It can happen to you too."

For more information on feng shui and its products, you may call WOFS Philippines at 914-7888/916-0000 or visit its boutiques located at the 1st Floor of The Podium, Heaven on the Fifth at Rustan's, and at SM City Cebu.

Animal Sign	Forecast	Charms
Rat	Has career and wealth luck, improvement on income, great recognition	Medicine dzi bead
Ox	Has good luck, 2006 is a better year than 2005, good year for marriage and business expansion	Lucky mongoose for getting money, get a he xian
Tiger	Good year for opportunities, better than 2005, hidden danger: robbery and accidents, has unpredictable luck	Make a wealth vase
Rabbit	Exciting new opportunities on the job front	Get mystic knot
Dragon	Conflicts, unexpected obstacles, obstruction for exam luck, good marriage prospects	Amulet coin, horse
Snake	Good career and wealth luck, illness: high blood, injury to the body, watch out in April	Medicine dzi bead, monkey riding horse for promotion
Horse	Not so good, be on the lookout, you might get cheated, don't be too trusty, don't sign major deals, lovelife is dry	Image of the 8 immortals, tortoise with lo shu, blue adventurine rhinoceros
Sheep/Goat	Success in work relationships, helping hand from mentors, good to build business	Elephant, monkey, rabbit, bird
Monkey	Quite a good year, not easy for making money/cashflow problems, do less traveling, will overcome all difficulties	Put a picture of your bank behind you, camel, get exam amulet
Rooster	Pretty bad year, misfortunes are bound to happen, don't do anything great	5 element pagoda, 100 birds poster
Dog	Good year, good for marriage, new ventures will be good, good opportunities	2 eyed dzi
Pig	Has incremental luck, relationship luck, could get married, windfall luck, popularity increases	Period of 8 bird, good business amulet

Lucky eating for the Year of the Fire Dog

ROUNDED FRUITS, RED CLOTHING, RE-ceipts of newly paid debts... you know the Lunar New Year is coming when people are starting to stock up on good luck charms, especially now that the celebrations are no longer confined within the Chinese community.

Ushering in good luck

Following certain Chinese rituals during the Lunar New Year is believed to attract a lot of good vibes to one's household. Some of the popular Chinese New Year practices include decorating homes with fresh flowers and small trees during the celebration to ward off evil and bring in good fortune; getting a haircut to get good luck for the next 12 months; wearing red clothing; and putting a plate of oranges or apples stacked in the shape of a pyramid at the center of the table.

For the Chinese, though, luring in good fortune into their homes goes beyond these well-known customs. For them, you can also attract fortuitous vibes this Lunar New Year by infusing Feng Shui into your food.

Food and Feng Shui

The Chinese believe that food and Feng Shui go hand in hand. By infusing Feng Shui into your food, you can achieve improved energy and increase your chances for prosperity and abundance for the whole year. There are four elements to consider in whipping out a Feng Shui-laced meal: elemental balance, Yin/Yang balance, aromatherapy, and food items symbolizing good luck.

These elements of good luck can be found in popular Chinese specialties, especially in their various soup dishes.

For instance, elemental balance, which is all about putting as many colors in one dish, can be found in the crab and corn soup which has a colorful mixture of red crab meat, yellow corn kernels, and green leeks. Elemental balance can also be found in dishes like stir-fried beef which has yellow, green and orange bell peppers, red tomatoes, purple eggplant, and some pink shrimps.

Meanwhile, Yin/Yang balance is all about matching the milder flavors (Yin) with the bolder flavors (Yang). Sweet and sour pork, hot and sour soup, and other strong flavored dishes all eaten with plain rice are examples of Yin/Yang balanced foods. Again, Yin and Yang can also be found in real Chinese soups because they combine the soft and the delicate (Yin) to the crunchy or crisp (Yang). The creamy, egg-laced liquid in soups represents the Yin, while the chunks of chicken, crab or corn represent the Yang.

Aromatherapy in dishes can be achieved by putting aromatic seasonings like Szechuan peppercorns, garlic, scallions, chillies and ginger into the food. The delicious scent created by such seasonings are believed to ward off negative energy from your household bringing in positive energy for the whole year.

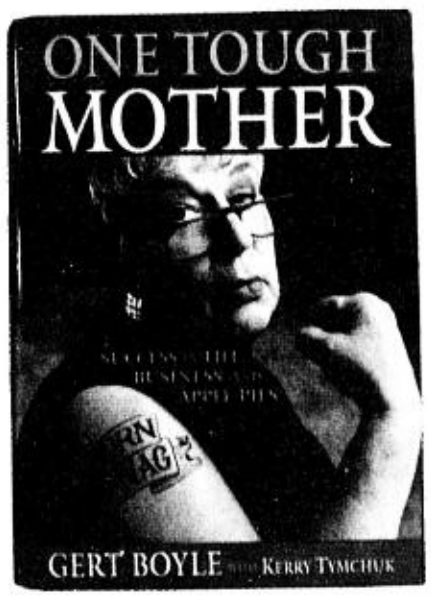
Finally, it is important to add food items/ingredients that represent good fortune. Chicken, for instance, represents a happy marriage; corn, with its golden color, represents abundance; pork means wealth; and eggs mean fertility. Perhaps it is because of this fourth Feng Shui food element that the Chinese came out with soups like crab and corn, chicken and corn, and pork and mushroom, all added with egg. These Chinese soup dishes combine all the lucky ingredients in one meal, making every sip from the bowl a promise of a year full of good luck.

Now that you have gathered all these Feng Shui-laden dishes, share the good luck to your loved ones this Chinese New Year!

Success in a male-dominated business from 'One Tough Mother'

IN THE YEAR OF THE FIRE DOG, fire up your passion for business by reading the book 'One Tough Mother'.

Asked if she would be willing to sell the business she inherited from her father and her husband, Mother Boyle went ballistic and told the buyer, "For $1,400, I would just as soon as run this business into the ground myself." That single episode in her career as a successful working mother sums up how Gert Boyle, chair of Columbia Sportswear, was able to turn things around for the company that caters dominantly to male customers. The rest of her and Columbia Sportswear's success story is in the book One Tough Mother, co-written by Mrs. Boyle and Kerry Tymchuk.



Columbia Sportswear is known around the world for its quality yet affordable outerwear. These two qualities of the brand may sound just like every other product out there, but to know Gert Boyle is to know the difference. In fact, the difference is written in various forms - as headlines of Columbia Sportswear's print ads.

One such ad says on its headline: "Introducing the product of an overly protective mother". In all of the company's ads, Mother Boyle is projected as an overbearing mother and employer who would push her son Tim and the company employees to work themselves to death just to get the kind of quality she demands. The copy is also made to appear like it is Tim Boyle, also the company's president, who is talking. In real life, however, the mother and son tandem is something that can be admired and should be emulated.

"Tim and I have occasionally raised our voices at one another - but we also knew each other's strengths, and somehow we managed to juggle our own relationships as business partners and as mother and son without ruining either," says Mother Boyle.

The book One Tough Mother, now distributed in all Columbia Sportswear outlets around the world including the Philippines, tells a lot of stories about the rise, fall, and resurrection of the company. From the exodus to the tyrannical Nazi Germans to the promising venture in America, and from being a "soccer mom" to being the heart and soul of the company, the book even includes recipes for success in business and in life.

"I was a housewife and a mother, and Tim was a twenty-one-year-old college student when fate put us at the helm of Columbia. While we may not have had business experience, we did have tenacity. It was that tenacity that allowed Columbia to survive, while giving us time to get the necessary experience," reveals Mother Boyle, "No one gets through life without suffering some setbacks. The test is how you react to those setbacks."

Mother Boyle has a lot of motherly advice that any struggling Filipino can learn from, be they entrepreneurs, students, mothers, fathers, sons, or daughters. Don't take yourself too seriously. Laugh. Volunteer for a mission or an organization that inspires you. Send thank-you notes. These are just some of the "ingredients" from her recipes for success.

One other thing stands out in Mother Boyle's character that any reader can't miss beginning with the advertising campaign. Perhaps that's one of the reasons that, at age eighty, she remains vibrant through the years. "You are never too old to learn. Go fast and your wrinkles don't show," she suggests.

So who says an old woman - a Jewish mother who started out not knowing anything about running a business - cannot handle products that caters mostly to men?

Proceeds from the book One Tough Mother will go to two of Mother Boyle's favorite charities, the Special Olympics and CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocates) for Children. The book is exclusively distributed at Columbia Sportswear in Gateway Mall, Podium, and Festival Mall.

Go big this Chinese New Year at Chili's

BIG IS DEFINITELY BETTER! THIS IS WHAT makes Chili's mouthwatering dishes stand out and make you come back for more. This month, Chili's is launching another big product. Savor two of your favorite Chili's grilled dishes on one mouth-watering plate for P420. Choose any two dishes from Chili's all time favorite grilled dishes: Baby Back Ribs, Shrimp and Salmon Skewer, Beef Salpicao and Monterey Chicken from the Mix and Match Grill. Your choices come complete with Pueblo Rice and fresh veggies. If that's not enough, you get a free bottomless glass of Coke from Feb. 1 to 28 only. Chili's Mix and Match Grill is available for a limited time only. Grab the big taste of Chili's and have a fun, fresh and flavorful dining experience. Visit any Chili's restaurants located at: Missouri cor. Nevada Streets in Northeast Greenhills; Greenbelt 1 in Ayala Center, Makati and Tomas Morato cor. Sct. Fernandez Streets in Quezon City.

A toast for Elov

GUNG HAI FAT CHOY FOR Elov Chinese Drug Store as it turns two years old this February 2006. In line with this, Elov sends back its gratitude by giving gift certificates and giveaways to its valued customers. Elov will also hold promotional activity such as sponsoring phone in promo in selected radio stations. This event will last for one week.

Committed to its objective, to be able to reach out to customers at various locations and to provide anyone an alternative medicine, specifically traditional Chinese medicine that has absolutely no side effects, Elov Chinese Drug Store will soon open its 2 branches at SM Sta. Rosa and Naga Land-Bicol on this hearty month of February.

Elov Chinese Drug Store is a dealer of different Chinese medicines, food supplements and selected beauty products.

You can find Elov Chinese Drug Store in leading malls.

A packet of good luck and great food in McDonald's Ang Pao

IT IS A MUCH ANticipated treat everybody hopes to receive during the Chinese New Year- an auspicious red envelope with gold markings that carries luck and money.

The age old tradition of giving Ang Pao which literally translates to "red packet" in Fookien symbolizes not only good luck for the Chinese, but long life, happiness and prosperity as well. It is usually given by grown-ups and seniors to visiting children and unmarried adults as a gesture of sharing blessings and wishing good luck for the New Year.

There is no set monetary value one can put inside the Ang Pao. However, the popular belief prevails that the amount should be even, as odd numbers are considered unlucky. The number eight is a particularly auspicious number not only because it sounds the same as "prosperous" or "fa" in Cantonese, but also because it stands for potential and growth. That is why the more there are eight's in the Ang Pao, the luckier it is believed to be.

At the dawning of each Chinese New Year, McDonald's, the world's number one quick service restaurant, has been keeping the celebrated practice alive since 2002 by giving out its own version of the lucky red packet.

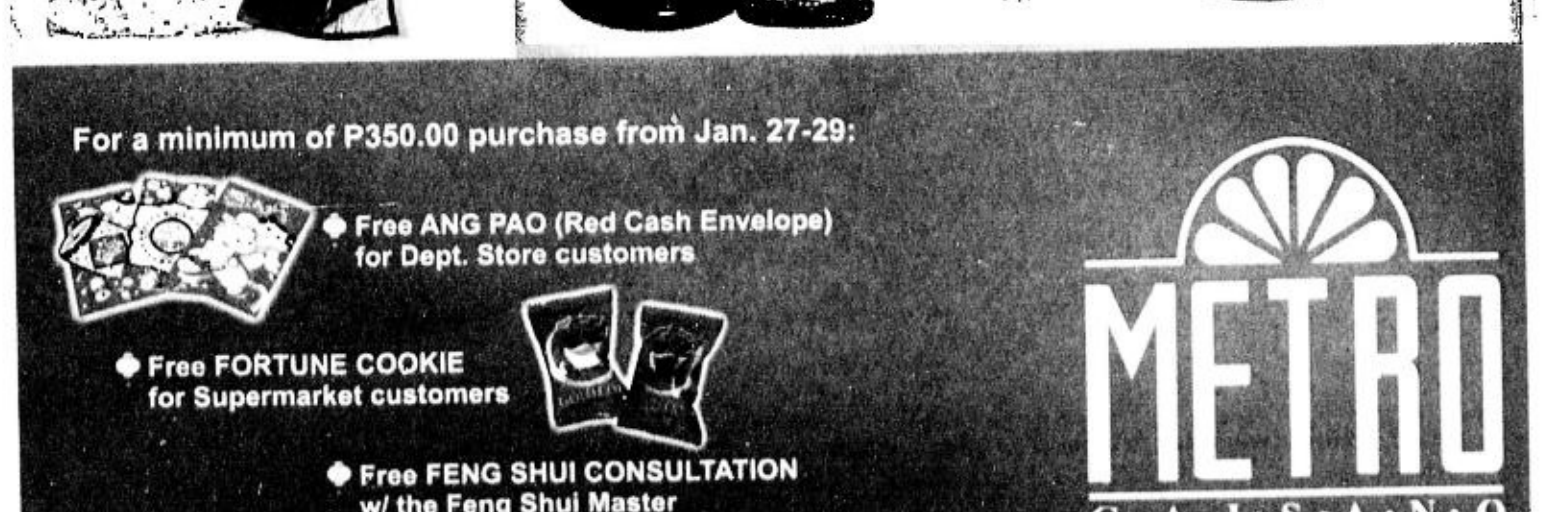
Welcome good fortune, prosperity and great food in the Year of the Dog through fantastic discounts and freebies with the McDonald's Ang Pao.

Each McDonald's Ang Pao contains eight special coupons you can use to get great discounts on your favorite McDonald's items like Chicken McDo, Burger McDo, McSpaghetti, Big Mac, McChicken and Big Breakfast meals. You can even get free Coke upsize and Nestea refills with the McDonald's Ang Pao coupons.

McDonald's Ang Pao coupons are valid for dine-in, take-out, drive-thru and Dial 8-McDo delivery service until March 15.

This Chinese New Year, enjoy great food at great value as often as you want. Get lucky on amazing, affordable meals with McDonald's Ang Pao.

McDonald's is the world's number one quick service restaurant chain, now on its 25th year of providing high-quality products at good value to Filipinos.



Where to look for that ideal gift this CHINESE NEW YEAR

WHAT BEGAN AS A SIMPLE COLlection blossomed into a family business now called Old Asia. Pachot Mapa began collecting Asian antiques, décor items and accessories during her husband's long years of stay in Thailand during the mid-80s. On her frequent trips from Bangkok to Manila, she would take along items for her own home, which her friends loved and would ask her to bring them similar items on succeeding trips. In 1993, Pachot finally decided to set up shop in order to a market that clearly hankered for beautiful and unique Asian items.

Now, for the first time since Old Asia's inception, all items are 70 percent off. The items currently on sale include 19th century cabinets, altar tables, chairs, screen dividers; rare collections of alabaster, bronze and wooden Buddhas; collector items such as handmade Cambodian and Burmese silver pumpkins, offering bowls and boxes; old Tibetan cabinets, chests, boxes and tables; home accent pieces like boxes, horses and dragons crafted from Chinese jade; Asian-inspired table lamps; and water hyacinth furniture.

Of special note are Old Asia's antique Chinese screens. These screens come from 19th century Chinese homes and were used as doors. The woodwork on these screens are magnificent and is distinguished by the fact that it employs no nails.

The collection also features antique Chinese iron containers from the 19th century. These huge containers were placed outside homes and filled with sand, which served to extinguish any fires.

Also on sale is a large 19th century black cabinet from China. Lotus flowers have been elaborately carved into the entire façade of this work of art.

The sale runs from Jan. 27 to March 5. Old Asia has outlets at the 2nd level of the Power Plant Mall at Rockwell (tel. nos. 898-1314 and 898-1315), and at the 4th level of the Shangri-la Plaza Mall (tel. nos. 635-3105 and 635-3099).

LING NAM BRAND RETURNS, OFFERS FRANCHISE OPPORTUNITIES

Ling Nam president Peter Fung (2nd from right) formally announces the company's return to the market and is now accepting applicants for franchising. The 55-year old-time food favorite opened its first outlet in T. Alonzo in 1950 and currently has another branch in Paranaque. It made a successful comeback when it joined the Philippine Franchise Association's (PFA) franchise pavilion at the recently concluded Bakery and Catering World 2006 at the World Trade Center. Ling Nam is set to open three more within the year in Metro Manila-in Greenbelt, Makati; Greenhills; and at the Araneta Center. For inquiries, call 705-1275 or 705-1875, or e-mail lingnamfoodcorp@yahoo.com. Shown with Fung are Robert F. Trota (2nd from left), president, Max's Restaurant and PFA; Evelyn Fung (right) and Weena Lontoc (left), Ling Nam treasurer and Manila franchise coordinator, respectively.

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SMART Simply Amazing!

CHINESE NEW YEAR 2006

DIG YOUR WAY INTO THE DOG'S HEART

THEIR ROLE IS NO LONGER LIMITED TO being a pet. They have become heroes, guide for the physically challenged, shock absorber, playmate, police partner, land mine detector, singer, dancer, artist, herder, you name it, they most probably know how to do it.

The canine group is taking centerstage this Year of the Fire Dog. As if living pooches were not enough, stores are selling anything and everything about dogs. And people are generous enough to pick one as a lucky charm.

How well do you know this most popular domesticated animal in the world? Did you know that when they pull their ears back, they are actually giving you that irresistible smile? That they are ecstatic to see you? Did you know that the wagging of their tails could mean a lot of things?

More than the tail wagging, there is still so much to learn about the canine family. Get to know more about your friendly pooch starting with some basic information on their physical framework.

(See illustration on Page H3).

Who's the brightest of 'em all?

WHILE (PHILIPPINE) MONGRELS ARE oftentimes overlooked for their exceptional intelligence, recent news and stories showed that they, too, are easy to train. They are also one of the sweetest, and the most protective. A foreigner once noticed that the mongrel he brought in the United Kingdom is especially protective of their home more than the people. "He would bark incessantly when a vehicle approaches the vicinity.

But among the world's famous breeds, who do you think got the highest IQ?

Border Collies are mostly trained to be working dogs in farms. Their agility and extraordinary intelligence make them easier to train. They easily understand commands in various forms, one of the main reasons they're tops among the brightest dogs.

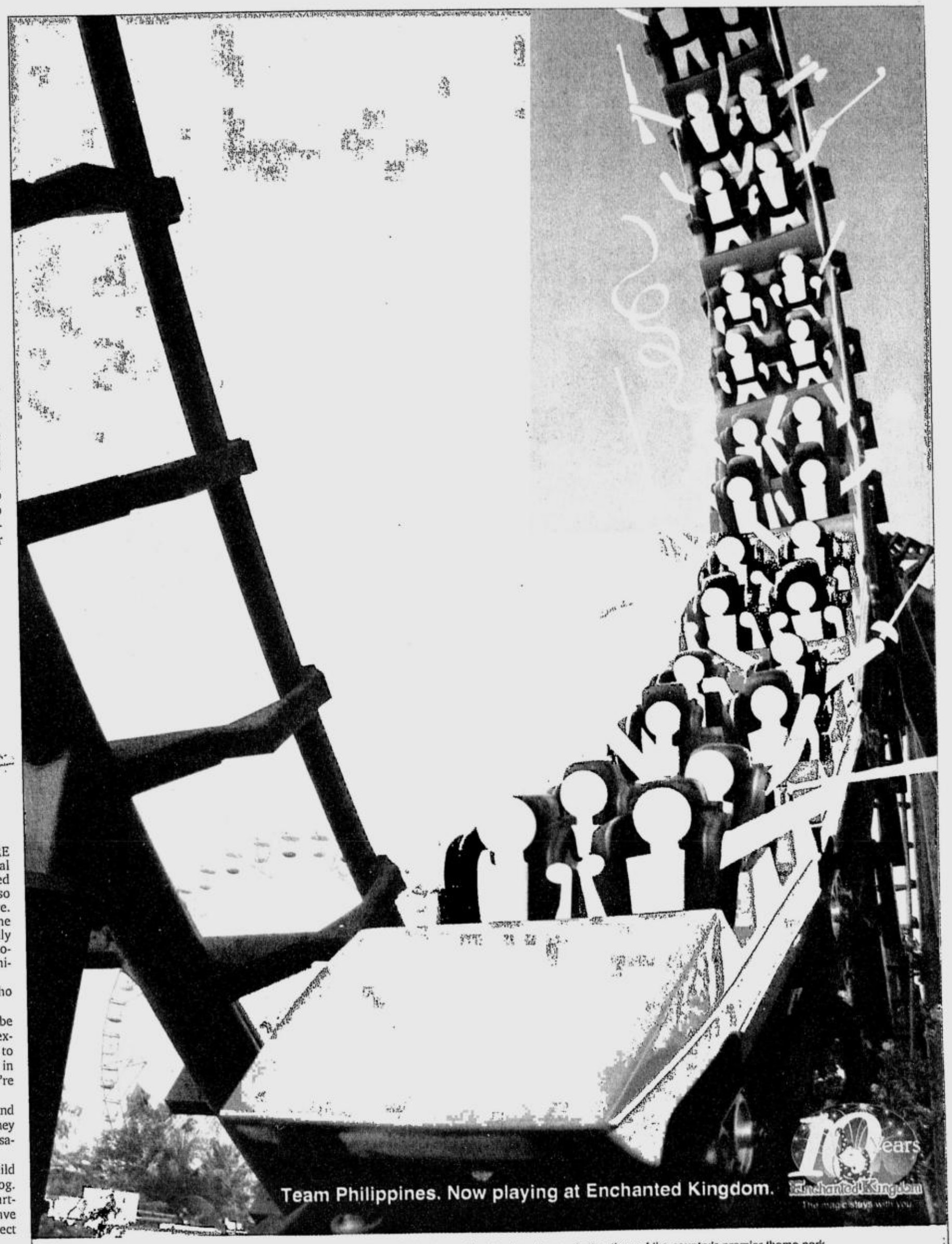
Poodles are popularly known to be show and toy dogs but they rank the second brightest. They are often pampered, often found in grooming salons, and sport the fabulous fur-cut.

The German Shepherd with all their build and might is more known as a police dog. They are the favorite of cops to become partners. They are the "macho" dogs. They have that air of nobility, and they command respect both from humans and fellow canines.

Golden Retrievers live up to their name. Aside from being a favorite as pets because of their appearance. Golden Retrievers are primarily hunting dogs. Thus, they are ideal for, well, retrieving things.

Completing the Top 10 list are Doberman Pinscher, Shetland Sheepdog, Labrador Retriever, Papillon, Rottweiler, and the Australian Cattle Dog.

Source: American Kennel Club website



Gifts of luck, and more, at The Podium

MORE THAN ITS ASTROLOGICAL AS-pects, Chinese New Year is traditionally a time of family reunions, gift giving, and celebrations. It's a great time to greet family and friends, wish them well with gifts of luck, as well as celebrate the new year by getting together for a sumptuous new year dinner.

The Podium and the World of Feng Shui celebrate the Year of the Dog with great gifts and great ways to celebrate. Maritess Allen, feng shui expert and owner of the Philippines' first World of Feng Shui Boutique at the mall, says that blue, black and green are the year's lucky colors, adding that wearing these at the start of the year signal a good beginning.

Allen, who is a graduate of the Lilian Too Institute of Feng Shui, says that the Fire Dog year might be an indication pointing to good business luck and an end of the disasters that marked the Year of the Rooster. Nevertheless, there's nothing like turning to feng shui to help us make up and counter challenging circumstances. Here are some suggested gifts of luck from the World of Feng Shui Boutique at The Podium.

The Wish Fulfilling Wheel. This is a wonderful way of activating a positive flow of chi to actualize all your wishes. Unscrew the top and place a layer of semi-precious stones at the bottom of the wheel to create a solid base of support. Then write your wishes on the five pieces of paper in the element colors-red, blue, green, yellow and white.

The Five Element Pagoda. This is an effective feng shui amulet to fend off bad luck during the year. It keeps us safe from misfortune and sickness brought about by feng shui elements, as well as bad luck for household members.

Crystals. A Crystal Cluster can activate the heaven star, which brings authority and power, while the Crystal Lotus is good for business and for avoiding problems in money and finance. To increase one's propensity to learn, you can spin the Crystal Globe daily, and have the best for the year ahead. Activating one's bedroom with Crystal Diamonds, on the other hand, can give your work and popularity a boost.

Coins. Giving your loved ones Ang Pao Coins is a way of enhancing their money luck, while a Tai Soi Coin with 12 animal signs brings fortune and happiness to recipients.

The Golden Wu Lu. Placing this beside one's bed can protect one from feeling ill.

THE WORLD of Feng Shui Boutique's owner, Maritess Allen

Pi Yao. When placed in entrances, this popular symbol can enhance wealth and attract prospertity to one's home.

The Ship of Abundance. This is great for people in business to avoid problems with money and cash flows.

The Podium's specialty restaurants also have special offerings for celebrating Chinese New Year. From Jan. 29 to Feb. 12, diners at Crustasia Crab and Seafood House can enjoy free appetizers, spring rolls, and desserts such as Thai Halo Halo and Vietnamese Pandan Cake for every P1,000 purchase. Worth trying out are the restaurant's Szechuan Crab, sweet, spicy and gingery crab sautéed in Szechuan sauce; Vietnamese Paella, an AQsian version of paella topped with green mango strips and eggs and served in bamboo; and Grilled Visayan Red Snapper.

Banana Leaf has some lucky offerings for the new year: Chinese Turnip Cake Noodle (turnip cakes with bean sprouts), Vietnamese Prawn Balls (prawn balls with cheese to symbolize harmony and unity in the family); and the Tilapia Fillet with Asamsambal Sauce, this jumping fish best for businessmen for avoiding problems with cash flow and for enhancing their luck in business.

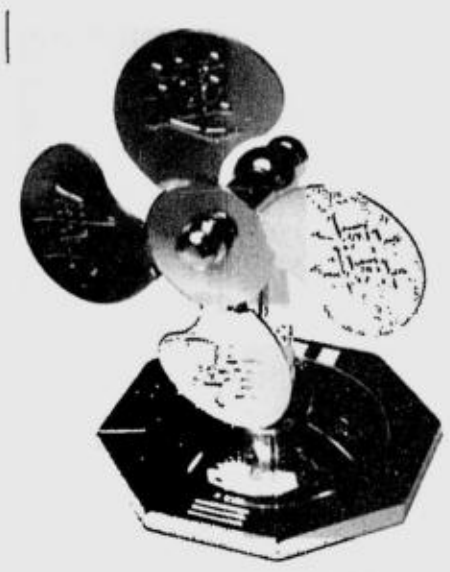
Master's Wok has a special promo of P99 for frozen dimsum for the Chinese New Year, as well as sumptuous specialties: Stuffed Prawn with Shrimp Ball, Crab with Sticky Rice, and Stuffed Beancurd with Minced Pork.

It's also a great time to try out specialties like Lolo Mao's Hainanese Chicken with Fragrant Rice; as well as China Star's Honey Garlic Ribs, Fried Codfish with Spicy Garlic Sauce, Citrus Prawns, Lobster Globe, and Spinach Dumplings.

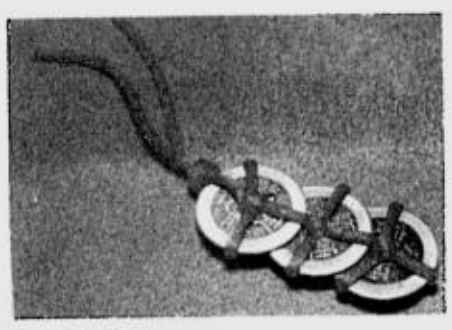
In line with the celebrations, the book "Tsinoy, The Story of Chinese in Philippine Life" was launched Jan. 22 at The Podium's Lounge Area. A project of Kaisa Para sa Kaunlaran, the 268-page book traces the Chinese migration and settlement in the Philippines, and chronicles the crucial roles Chinese have played in Philippine history.

With no less than Teresita Ang See as the guest speaker, the book launch also featured a one-day exhibit of rare photographs of early Chinese immigrants and their influences and impact on all aspects of Philippine life. During the event, Ang See also shared interesting Chinoy trivia with the audience, like the origin of many contemporary words like pansit, as well as the origin of Manila Chinatown street names like Ongpin.

SPIN a Crystal Globe daily to increase your propensity to learn



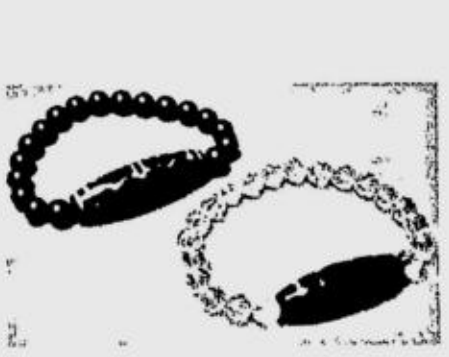
THE 'LUCK Transforming Wheel'



ANG POW coins also enhance the luck for money.

PI YAO can also be used as a wealth enhancer

THE SHIP of Abundance is for businessmen to avoid problems in their businesses



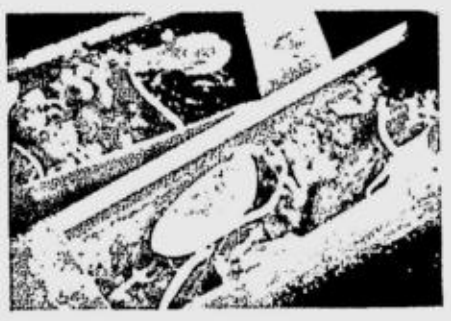
WEAR a Dzi Bracelet to bring you all kinds of goodluck

THESE animal signs are best suited for individuals who want their profits to increase

THE WISH Fulfilling Wheel activates the positive flow of 'chi' to realize all your wishes

A 'CRYSTAL Cluster' can activate the heaven star, which brings authority and power

BANANA Leaf's Vietnamese Prawn Balls



ENJOY Crustasia's Vietnamese Paella in Bamboo

LOLO Mao's Hainanese Chicken with fragrant rice, black chili, and ginger sauces

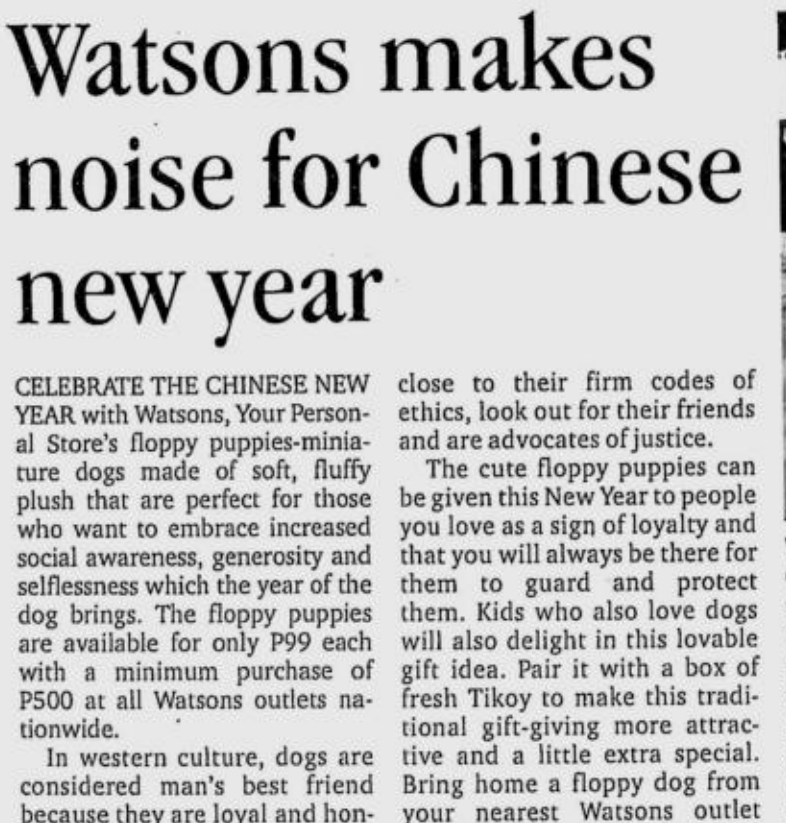
Watsons makes noise for Chinese new year

CELEBRATE THE CHINESE NEW YEAR with Watsons, Your Personal Store's floppy puppies-miniature dogs made of soft, fluffy plush that are perfect for those who want to embrace increased social awareness, generosity and selflessness which the year of the dog brings. The floppy puppies are available for only P99 each with a minimum purchase of P500 at all Watsons outlets nationwide.

In western culture, dogs are considered man's best friend because they are loyal and honest. Filipinos who also have oriental practices believe that those who are born under the year of the dog have good characteristics. They are wonderful, discreet friends and are great listeners. They always stick close to their firm codes of ethics, look out for their friends and are advocates of justice.

The cute floppy puppies can be given this New Year to people you love as a sign of loyalty and that you will always be there for them to guard and protect them. Kids who also love dogs will also delight in this lovable gift idea. Pair it with a box of fresh Tikoy to make this traditional gift-giving more attractive and a little extra special. Bring home a floppy dog from your nearest Watsons outlet now for they will only be available until Jan. 29.

Watsons Your Personal Store is the largest health and beauty retailer in Asia, currently operating over 1,200 stores in 11 markets.



WUSHU, dragon dance and Chinese fortune telling mark the opening of Singapore's Bee Cheng Hiang, the makers of all-time Chinese favorite snack foods barbecued meats ('mah-pa') and meat floss ('mah-hu'), at the 3rd floor of Food Choices, Glorietta 4 Mall in Makati City and also at the Shangri-La Mall in Mandaluyong City. From a mobile stall peddled on the streets of Singapore's Chinatown in the 1930s, BCH established itself as a market leader in the barbecued meat industry, with 28 retail outlets in Singapore and 46 outlets across Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Indonesia and the Philippines. Some of the products available are sliced pork, chicken coin, gourmet bacon, Chiziban, pork floss and Krispee Frostee.

Li Li welcomes 2006 with festivities

TO WELCOME THE YEAR OF the Dog, Hyatt Hotel and Casino Manila is celebrating Chinese New Year with traditional specialties, dishes, rare tea ceremonies and the honoring of the God Fortune. With perfect timing, this is also the first anniversary of Li Li, the hotel's signature outlet. The hotel marked the beginning of the Chinese Fire Dog Year on Jan. 28, and the festivities would continue through to Feb. 12.

The celebrations will culminate with the arrival of the God of Fortune, also known as the Guard of Treasures, in all the hotel's restaurants. The God of Fortune brings wealth and prosperity to the generous and spreads blessings by distributing lucky Chinese New Year Red Packets to guests. These Red Packets will entitle guests a chance to win premium prizes, including complimentary room accommodation; gift certificates for the Pastry Boutique, the Market Café, Li Li, The Fireplace or The Lounge; bottles of red or sparkling wines; and other premium gift items.

What better way to welcome the Chinese New Year than by dining in the best Chinese restaurant the city can offer? Li Li will welcome the New Year with the most authentic Cantonese cuisine as Master Chef Choi showcases a special eight-course set menu featuring such New Year specialties as Braised Abalone, Whole Live Garoupa, Shark's Fin in Superior Broth and Braised Flower Mushrooms. A traditional tea ceremony will follow this delicious and authentic meal. Set menus start at P1,288 per person.

Traditional New Year dishes will also be available ala carte. Call 245-1234 for inquiries and reservations.

East West Bank enters 2006 with 'more superior service, fierce confidence'

EAST WEST BANKING CORP WELCOMES the Year of the Fire Dog as it joins the celebration of the Chinese New Year.

East West Bank is in the heart of the Filipino-Chinese community with its various products and services catered to this choice clientele.

The past year saw a marked focus on delivering a more superior service for the bank's Chinese-Filipino clients. With the coming of the Year of the Dog, the bank makes a firmer commitment to make the service even better.

The Fire Dog is fierce, confident and deeply motivated. At the same time, it is honest and loyal.

These same characteristics can be seen with East West Bank as it embraces the challenges of the New Year, not only for its Filipino-Chinese clients but all clients and business partners across all market groups.

The Filipino-Chinese, fondly called "Tsinoys," make up 40 percent of the bank's total client base nationwide. The number is expected to grow as the bank makes more aggressive efforts to serve this market.

For this market, East West Bank delivers a service adapted to their culture and traditions. The bank has actualized this objective by treating them to freebies like mooncakes, extending courtesies like greeting them on their birthdays, and cutting the paperwork process to suit to their hectic schedules.

Tsinoys appreciate being remembered on important celebrations while they want to do things fast and simple.

With East West Bank tailoring its products and services for this market through what it calls "unbanking the bank," complementing it with its personalized relationship marketing, the bank has gained headway in the Filipino-Chinese market.

The growth can be easily seen in the bank's two personalized banking services in Manila's Chinatown district, Masangkay, Sto. Cristo and Soler. The PBCs showcase what the bank can offer to the Tsinoy community.

East West Bank is extending the same brand of service to its Filipino-Chinese depositors in its other PBCs all over the country.

For this year, the bank is lining up a number of promos and gimmicks to make its relationship with this select clientele stronger and more personal.

DIG YOUR WAY INTO THE DOG'S HEART

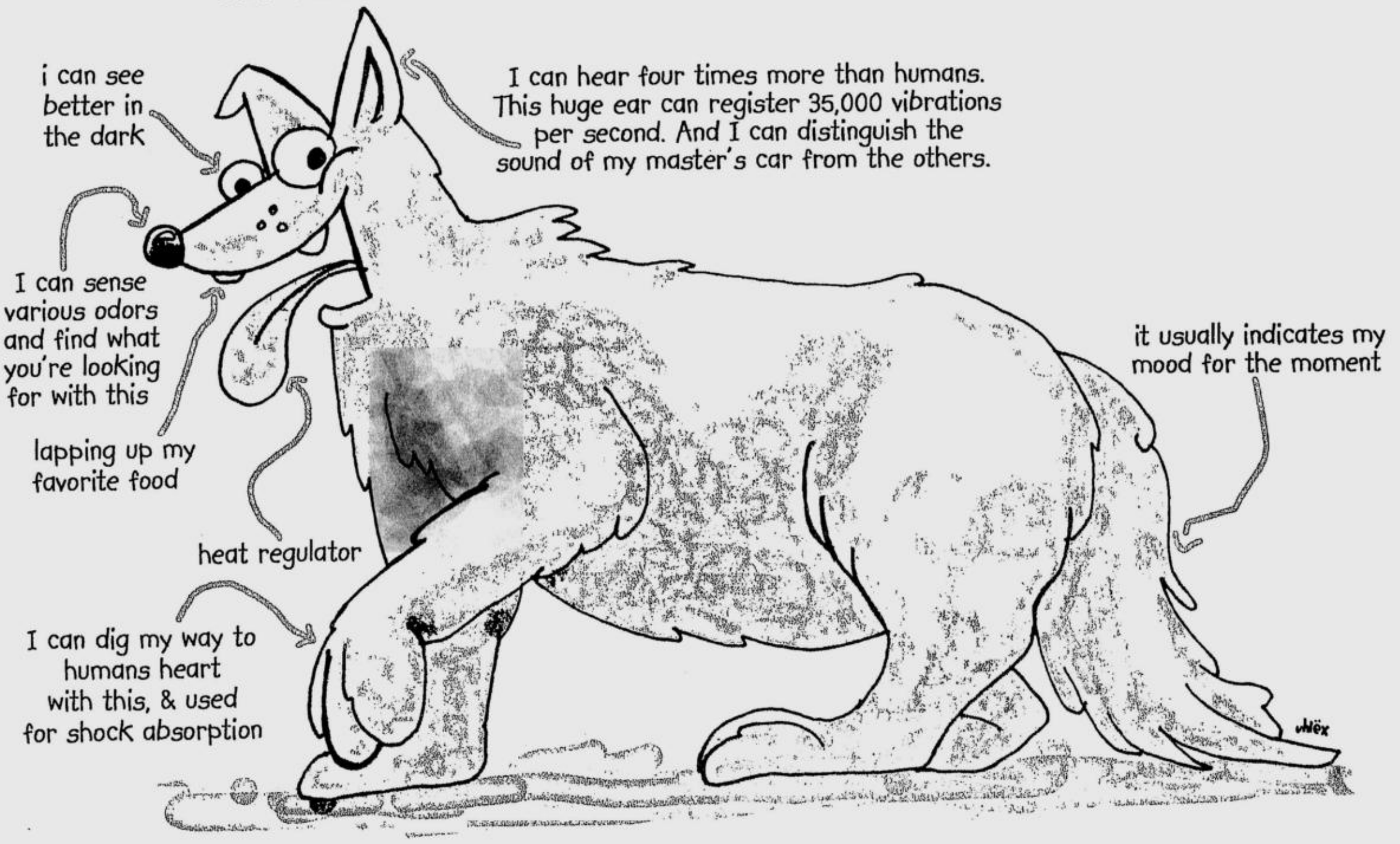
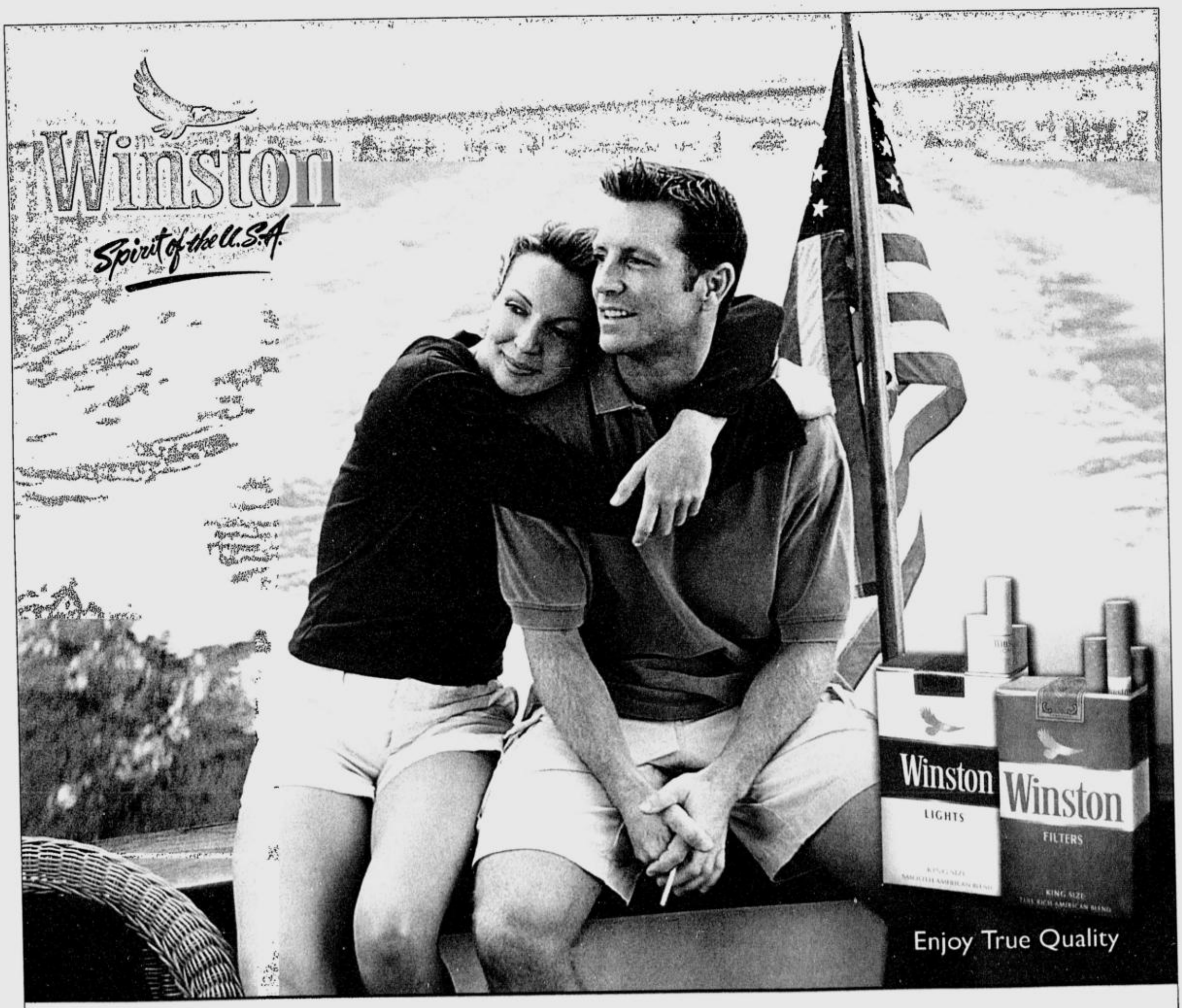


ILLUSTRATION BY ALIZZA C. BUTIONG



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love ko 'to™

Visit McDonald's and celebrate the Year of the Dog with us!

Get this lucky ang pao filled with great deals to avail of exclusive offers on your favorite McDonald's items!

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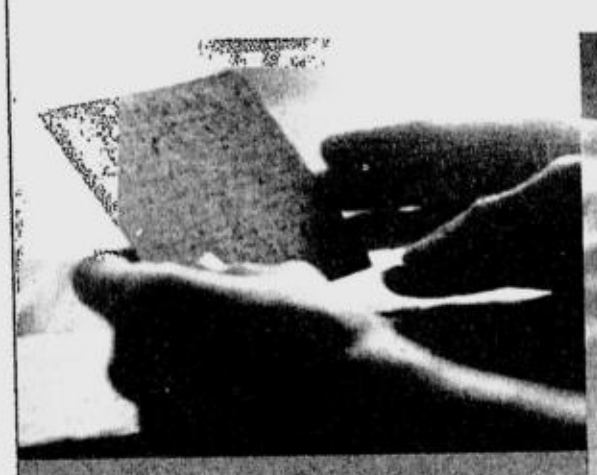
Understanding through TOUCH

As a member of our inbound customer care team, you will be trained in the art of understanding people's needs.



With over 66,000 employees world-wide Convergys knows how to keep its business growing. As more people find the need for cable and radio services, international mail, online information, and financial management, our customer care team is on call 24/7.

We are looking for individuals with a passion for learning and drive for success.

INBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

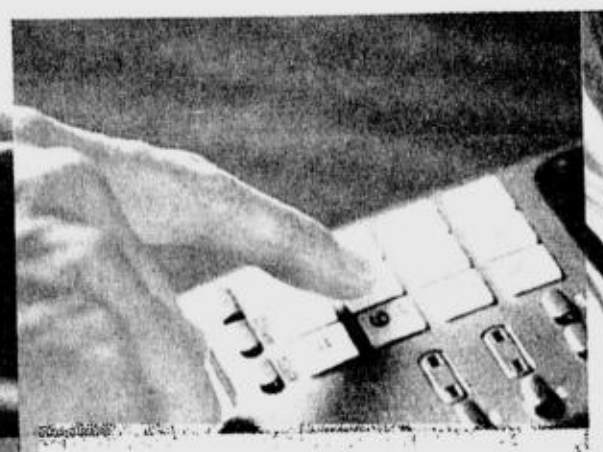
- Proficient in basic computer operations
- Flexible and willing to be assigned to varying work hours
- Excellent customer service skills
- Courteous and able to develop positive rapport with customers
- Dependable and has a solid work ethic
- Attentive and has a keen eye for detail
- Fluent in English and communicates clearly
- Creative and solves problems effectively
- Background in credit card verification is preferred but not required
- Completed at least 2 years of college or its equivalent
- 1 year customer service is preferred

Visit our Commonwealth, Makati, Ortigas, or Alabang Site and experience 1 day processing! Our centers are open from 9:00am to 6:00pm, Mondays to Fridays.

For our Commonwealth site, we are in need of people

Motivation through TOUCH

As a member of our outbound customer care team, you will be trained in the art of motivating people.



Convergys takes pride in its business with Fortune 500 companies. Our accounts catering to financial, telecommunication and credit cards are among the leading and on demand programs to date.

We are looking for individuals with a passion for learning and drive for success.

OUTBOUND CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

- Proficient in basic computer operations
- Flexible and willing to be assigned to varying work hours
- Excellent customer service skills
- Courteous and able to develop positive rapport with customers
- Dependable and has a solid work ethic
- Attentive and has a keen eye for detail
- Fluent in English and communicates clearly
- Ability to multi-task and to demonstrate problem solving skills
- Sales experience preferred but not required
- Completed at least 2 years of college or its equivalent
- 1 year customer service is preferred

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[illegible] through TOUCH

As a member of our consumer services team, you will be trained in the art of sensitivity.

Being the global leader in customer care, Convergys continues to touch lives anywhere in the world. The chance for consumer assistance can be present either from home or on the road.

We are looking for individuals with a passion for learning and drive for success.

CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

- Proficient in basic computer operations
- Flexible and willing to be assigned to varying work hours
- Courteous and able to develop positive rapport with customers
- Dependable and has a solid work ethic
- Attentive and has a keen eye for detail
- Creative and solves problems effectively
- Excellent English written communication skills
- Assertive and sales oriented
- Conversant with financial processes
- Completed at least 2 years of college or its equivalent
- 1 year customer service is preferred

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As a member of our technical customer care team, you will be trained in the art of immediate and effortless response to people's technical needs.

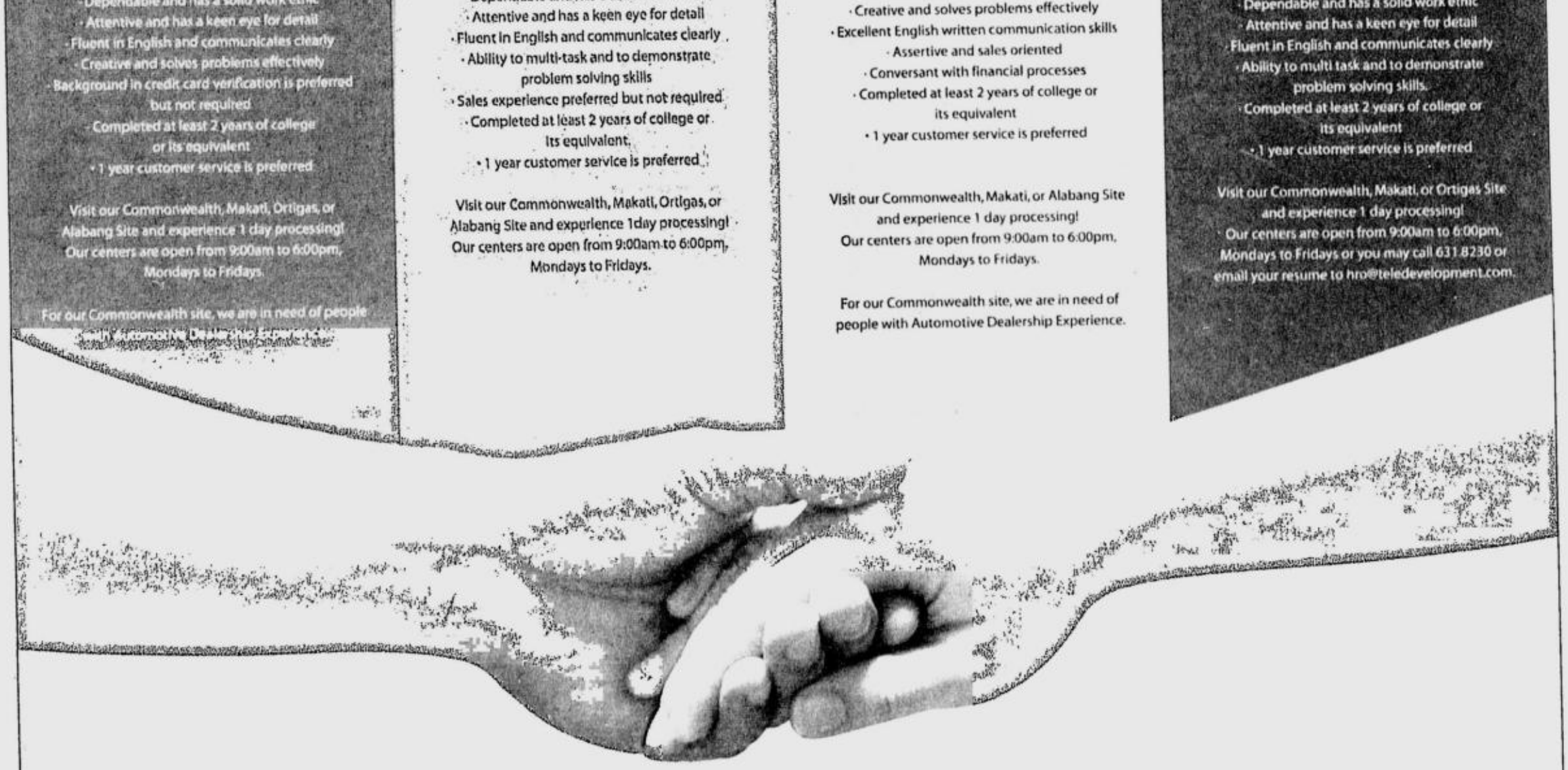
Convergys is committed to using only the best technology and pushing the boundaries of possibilities. As the world transforms into a highway for information, computers, and Internet, it's no doubt that people and technology are working hand in hand.

We are looking for individuals with a passion for learning and drive for success.

TECHNICAL CUSTOMER CARE REPRESENTATIVES

- Proficient in basic computer operations
- Technically inclined and possesses knowledge on internet troubleshooting
- Flexible and willing to be assigned to varying work hours
- Excellent customer service skills
- Courteous and able to develop positive rapport with customers
- Dependable and has a solid work ethic
- Attentive and has a keen eye for detail
- Fluent in English and communicates clearly
- Ability to multi task and to demonstrate problem solving skills.
- Completed at least 2 years of college or its equivalent
- 1 year customer service is preferred

Visit our Commonwealth, Makati, or Ortigas Site and experience 1 day processing! Our centers are open from 9:00am to 6:00pm, Mondays to Fridays or you may call 631.8230 or email your resume to hro@teledevelopment.com.



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Convergys is a touchstone of human interaction in customer care: sensitive, responsive, involved.

We offer an attractive compensation and benefits package and additional incentives are given to performing agents! Applicants with resume, NBI Clearance, and SSS number will be prioritized.

Visit the Convergys booth at the Star City Complex in front of the Aliw Theater, February 3-4, 9AM-5PM and at the Glorietta Activity Center, February 4, 10AM-6PM.

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Cebu Office
R. Arcenas Street, Arcenas Estate Banawa Hills, Cebu City

Commonwealth Office
Dillman Commercial Center #46 Don Mariano Marcos Avenue, Dillman Quezon City

Makati Office
Convergys One, 6796 Ayala Ave., cor Salcedo St. Legaspi Village, Makati City

Ortigas Office
24th Floor, Robinson's Equitable Tower #4 ADB Avenue Ortigas Center, Pasig City

U-Belt Office
Level 1, St. Thomas Square 1150 España Boulevard cor. Padre Campa St. Sampaloc, Manila

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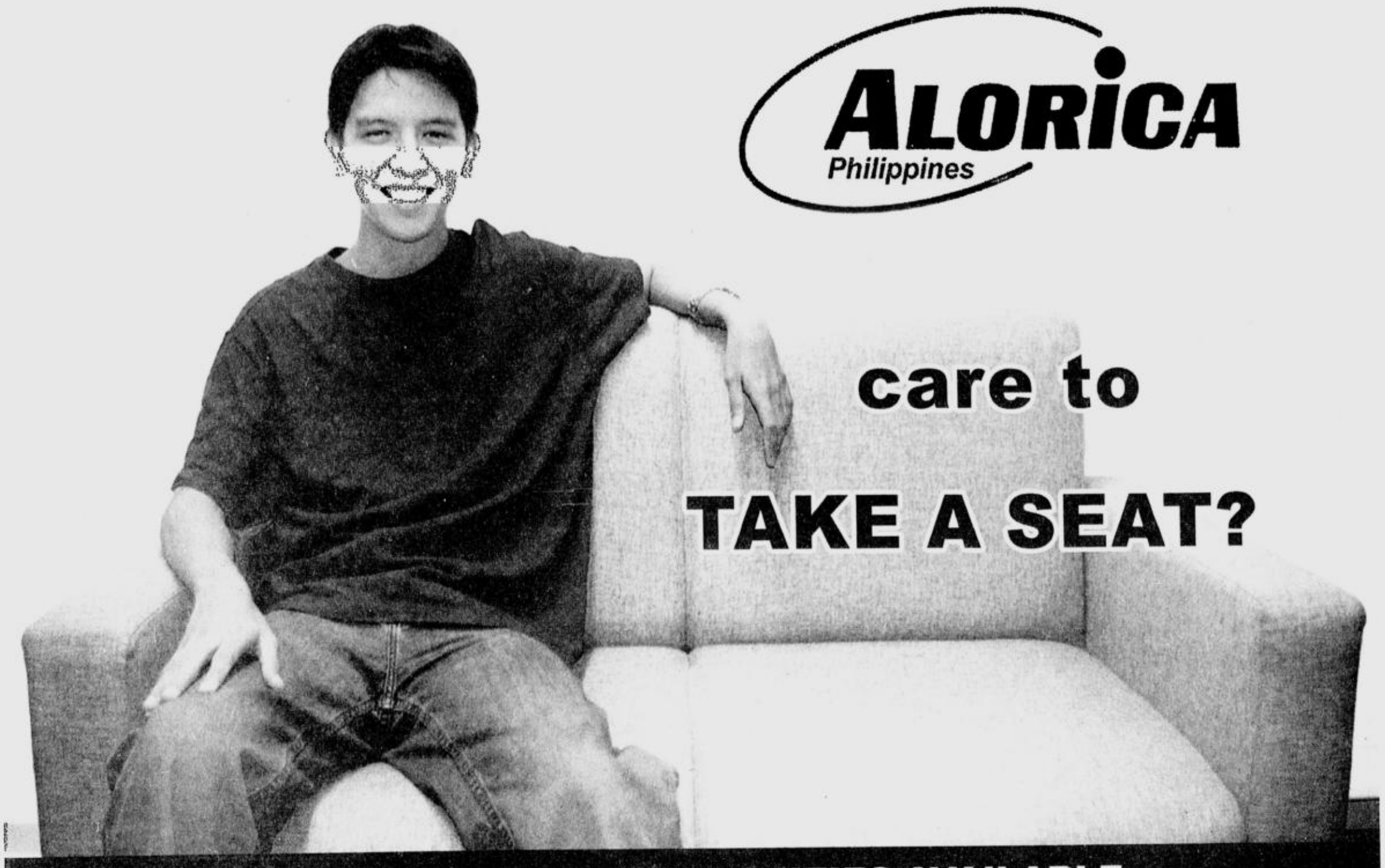
Outthinking Outdoing



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January 30 - February 03 from 9 am - 5 pm
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recruitment @manila.alorica.net

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FT
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The *FINANCIAL TIMES,* one of the world's leading sources of business news and information, is expanding its Manila operation and requires additional staff for its data production team. The ideal applicants must meet the attributes and formal skills below and should be able to start as soon as possible.

INFORMATION EDITORS

- Be highly skilled in Adobe Acrobat, Quark Express or other desktop publishing software packages
- Had exposure to data production or computerized newspaper operation
- Have a good working knowledge of XML
- Excellent comprehension and English writing skills and a high level of attention to detail
- Able to work on a variable shift schedule including weekends and holidays
- Able to meet tight production deadlines
- Graduate of any four- or five-year course
- Previous experience working for a multinational company

Qualified applicants should post their detailed resume, cover letter and most recent photograph not later than Friday, February 3, 2006, to **The HR & Administration Manager** at the following address:

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- Honest, dedicated, hardworking and flexible
- Female, 22-30 years old

Interested applicants may come in for an interview in business attire at Room 701 National Life Insurance Building, 6762 Ayala Avenue, Makati City – not later than February 01, 2006.

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Qualifications: college graduate, female, with good communication skills; matured; with 1 year work experience as receptionist

The company prefers candidates who are willing to work under pressure and with minimum supervision.

Applicants may mail or bring their resumé and transcript to Unit 1803-1805 Taipan Place, Emerald Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City on or before January 31, 2006 or email to ph.events@globalscholarship.org

Previous applicants need not apply.

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- Consumer Electronics (Voice Support)
- Internet Shopping Company (Email Support)
- Consumer Manufacturing Co. (Voice/Email Support)
  - HR back office support (Speaks Thai)
  - HR back office support (Speaks Mandarin)
- Digital Imaging Company (Voice Support)
  - HR back office support (Speaks German or French)

Qualifications:

- Must have completed 3 years of college education or a 2 year Vocational course
- Must possess excellent oral and written English communication skills
- Call center experience is an advantage
- Proficient in the use of computers and various applications
- Willing to work in a fast-paced, dynamic and schedule-shifting environment

Support & Leadership Posts

- Operations Manager
- Team Leaders
- Workforce Managers
- Workforce Specialists
- Quality Assurance Specialists
- Quality Consultant (Speaks Thai)
- Financial Planning Manager
- Data Network Specialists
- Implementation Manager
- Deputy Manager - Sourcing
- Sr. Recruitment Associate - Sourcing

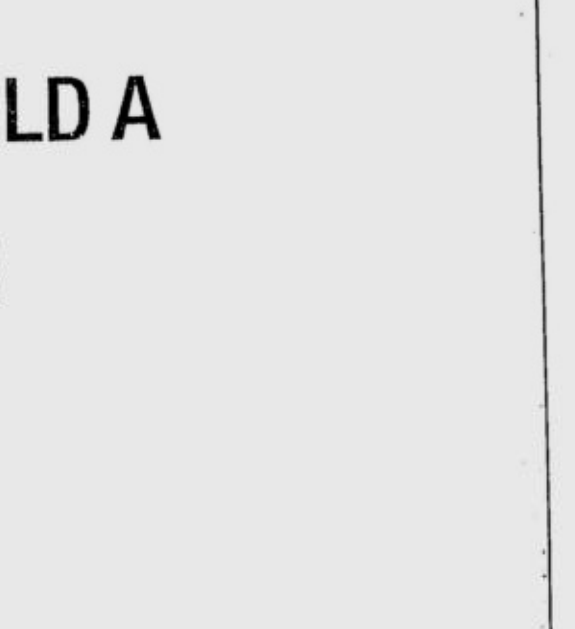
Call center experience is a must for support and leadership posts.

Call our Recruitment Hotline **840-6020**

or email your resume to: **applications@daksh.com.ph**

IBM DAKSH HEADQUARTERS
30/F PBCom Tower,
Ayala Avenue Makati

IBM DAKSH RECRUITMENT CENTER
3/F Edsa Central Pavilion
Edsa cor-Shaw Boulevard
Mandaluyong City



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Fujitsu Ten Solutions Philippines, Inc. (FTSP) develops software and hardware for state-of-the-art technology in Car Audio-Visual Communication Equipment, Car Multimedia, Car Electronics and Simulation Devices.

URGENTLY NEEDS for its EXPANSION

PROGRAMMER TRAINEES
- Graduate of Computer Science, COE, ECE; 21-24 years old
- Preferably with experience on the development of firmware, embedded software and business applications.
- Must be competent in any of the following: **C/C++, Visual Basic, Assembly Language, MAGIC Software**
- Ability to speak Nihongo or Mandarin is an advantage

HARDWARE DESIGN TRAINEES
- Graduate of ECE or ME; 21-24 years old
- Must be interested in circuit designing (ECE) or product development using CAD (Mechanical)
- Familiarity with the function of car audio, video, navigation and car electronics
- Ability to troubleshoot electronic components.

HR OFFICER
- Bachelor's Degree preferably in Psychology, Behavioral Sciences and other HR related course; 28-40 years old
- At least 5 years experience in all aspects of human resource work
- Knowledgeable on Philippine Labor Laws and government mandated requirements
- Experienced on benefits and compensation planning and administration

NETWORK SUPPORT ENGINEERS
- Graduate of COE or ECE; 21-25 years old
- Must be familiar with different operating systems – Installation and administration (Microsoft Windows, Linux, Oracle).
- Must have knowledge in LAN/WAN setup (Installation and administration)
- Must be able to work under strict deadlines with minimal supervision

OFFICE ASSISTANT
- Graduate of any Business Course, Psychology or Accountancy
- 21 - 24 years old
- Must be computer literate
- Must have good verbal and written English communication skills

MANAGEMENT STAFF / EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
- Knowledgeable in use of MS Office and Japanese IME
- Able to speak and write in Japanese language
- Preferably passed JLPT Level 2 or 3

Interested applicants may submit their comprehensive resume, 2x2 picture, and transcript of records to the address below:

Fujitsu Ten Solutions Phils., Inc.
8th Floor East Tower, PSE Center, Ortigas, Pasig City
Email: recruit@ftcp.ten.fujitsu.com
Tel No.: 638-7958

FAST-EXPANDING HEALTH CARE PRODUCT & SERVICE PROVIDER IS LOOKING FOR THE FF:

DIRECT SELLERS; NETWORKERS; SALES AGENTS & ENTREPRENEURS
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(Entrepreneurship & Business Opportunities Also Offered)

We offer an extraordinary sales program for individuals. And in addition to a great earning opportunity, we offer allowances & overriding commissions to deserving & chosen applicants.
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- We offer full training & sales support
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Excellent business program arrangement between company & the establishment

HIRING UNTIL FEB. 28, 2006 (CLIP & BRING THIS AD)
E-mail your CV with recent photo (for individual applicants) & vital business info (for establishments) to sam@aigsph.com

Or come personally to **AIGS Marketing Corporation** at #1408 Jollibee Plaza, Emerald Avenue Ortigas Center
Weekdays ONLY anytime from 1-6 pm.
Ask for Ms. Sam or call 687-3016/0920-915-5095

Branch Manager, Accounting Clerk, Sales Agents for BAGUIO, CEBU & DAGUPAN branches send application to joey@aigsph.com

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A progressive private company needs

FINANCIAL ANALYST

CPA, preferably single, not more than 32 years old, with at least 5 years work experience, proficiency in Powerpoint, Excel & other job-related microsoft office software and fluent in both oral and written communications. Willing to work for long hours. Only qualified applicants may fax bio-data with recent photo to 634-2921 or 633-4282 not later than 15 February 2006.

GREENPEACE
Southeast Asia

FUNDRAISING MANAGER
THE PHILIPPINES

Greenpeace is a global organization which focuses on environmental action and protection. Greenpeace believes in the principle of 'bearing witness' – drawing attention to the abuse and possible destruction of natural ecosystems – and aims to ensure the world is a better place to live in for future generations. We are looking for a creative and inspiring person to lead a highly motivated and enthusiastic fundraising team in the Philippines.

Our full-time Fundraising Manager will be responsible for developing and managing all fundraising activities for this office. Greenpeace's main fundraising initiatives will be directed towards recruitment of supporters, and through them, raising money and gaining commitment of Greenpeace's aims and objectives. As part of our philosophy of independence, Greenpeace does not solicit or accept donations from governments or the corporate sector.

In addition to strong leadership skills and a commitment to the ideals of Greenpeace, our Fundraising Manager will be a strategic and creative thinker, have strategic budget planning experience, an understanding of membership systems and supporter services, competency in management of spreadsheets and databases, senior level experience in sales or marketing and excellent written and oral communication skills. Fundraising experience in NGOs will be an advantage.

This position reports directly to the Fundraising Director of Greenpeace Southeast Asia Foundation based in Bangkok. Selected candidate will be given a one-year contract with possibility of extension.

Interested!

Please e-mail your application and C.V. with photo and expected salary to pearl.vong@th.greenpeace.org or mail to the Fundraising Director, Greenpeace SEA Foundation, C202 Monirin Bldg., 60/1 Soi Sailom, Samesen Nai, Phyatai, Bangkok 10400, Thailand. Only short-listed candidates will be contacted. Deadline: Feb. 15, 2006.

ILDAEIL-EDU, INC.
International Education Center

We are a PEZA-registered company located in RCBC Plaza, Makati City. We are pioneers in providing cutting-edge service for English as a Second Language to our clients in Korea. We aim for international standards in our programs, and have full-time positions for applicants who are:

- ✓ **Creative, Hardworking, Results oriented**
- ✓ **Passionate about Teaching**
- ✓ **University or Graduate Students**

We offer:

- ✓ **Competitive Compensation and Benefits**
- ✓ **Subsidized Housing for qualified instructors**
- ✓ **Excellent Working Environment**
- ✓ **Professional & Culture-Sensitive Management**

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Responsibilities
- Teaches English as a Second Language (ESL)
- Accomplishes daily reports, lesson plans, extension lessons and narrative progress reports
- Encourages students to high-level thinking (critical/creative/decision-making)
- Participates in training & curriculum development

Requirements
- Preferably females ages 20-35 yrs. Old
- Graduate of any 4-year course, preferably Education, English, Literature, Communication Arts
- Excellent English oral and written communication skills
- With an American Accent (an advantage)
- Full-time, with a schedule of 5am–2pm OR 2pm–11pm

Email resumé to **recruitment.ildaeil@yahoo.com** (text only) or drop off resumés at the 26th Floor, Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayala Avenue, Makati City Tel No. 8451026 / 8451040

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Our Company is one of the recognized leading brands in the fashion leather business in the Philippines with more than 30 years of experience and success. As the company expands, it continues to employ competent workforce that delivers high quality products and services to its clients.

HR MANAGER
- Female, preferably single 25-38 years old.
- Candidate must possess a degree in Human Resources Management, I/O Psychology or its equivalent. Post Graduate Diploma or Master's Degree in Human Resource Management is preferred but not required.
- With 3 to 5 years of managerial working experience in Human Resources.
- Well verse in the different facets of HR (Recruitment, Training, OD, Labor Laws, Compen, Employee Relations, and Corporate Communications).
- Strong leadership, organizational, strategic thinking, highly analytical, and decision making skills.
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills.
- With excellent interpersonal skills.
- Must be detail-oriented and patient
- Computer literate

HEAD ACCOUNTANT
- Female, preferably single 25-38 years old
- Candidate must possess a degree in BSC major in Accounting and is a Certified Public Accountant.
- With 3 to 5 years of managerial working experience in Accounting.
- Computer literate
- Excellent in oral and written communication skills.
- Must be highly organized, detail-oriented and highly analytical skills.

ACCOUNTING CLERK
- Female, preferably single 23-30 years old
- Candidate must be degree holder in BSC or BSBA.
- With 2 years work experience under the same capacity.
- Computer literate
- Must be organized, detail-oriented and patient.

PAYROLL CLERK
- Female, preferably single 23-30 years old.
- Candidate must be degree holder in BSC or BSBA.
- Computer literate and is knowledgeable in any automated Payroll System.
- Good oral and written communication skills.
- With 1 year experience under the same capacity.
- Must be organized, detail-oriented and patient.

GRAPHICS DESIGNER
- Male, preferably single 23-30 years old.
- Candidate must possess degree in fine arts or graphics design.
- Competencies in photography, visual merchandising, product packaging, and visual communication and design are required.
- With 1 year experience under the same capacity.
- Computer literate and is competent on the following applications: MS Office, Adobe Photoshop, Corel Draw, Illustrator, and other graphics application program.

Send your comprehensive resumé to:
HR / Admin
47 3rd St., New Manila, Quezon City
E-mail to: jobzseekers@yahoo.com

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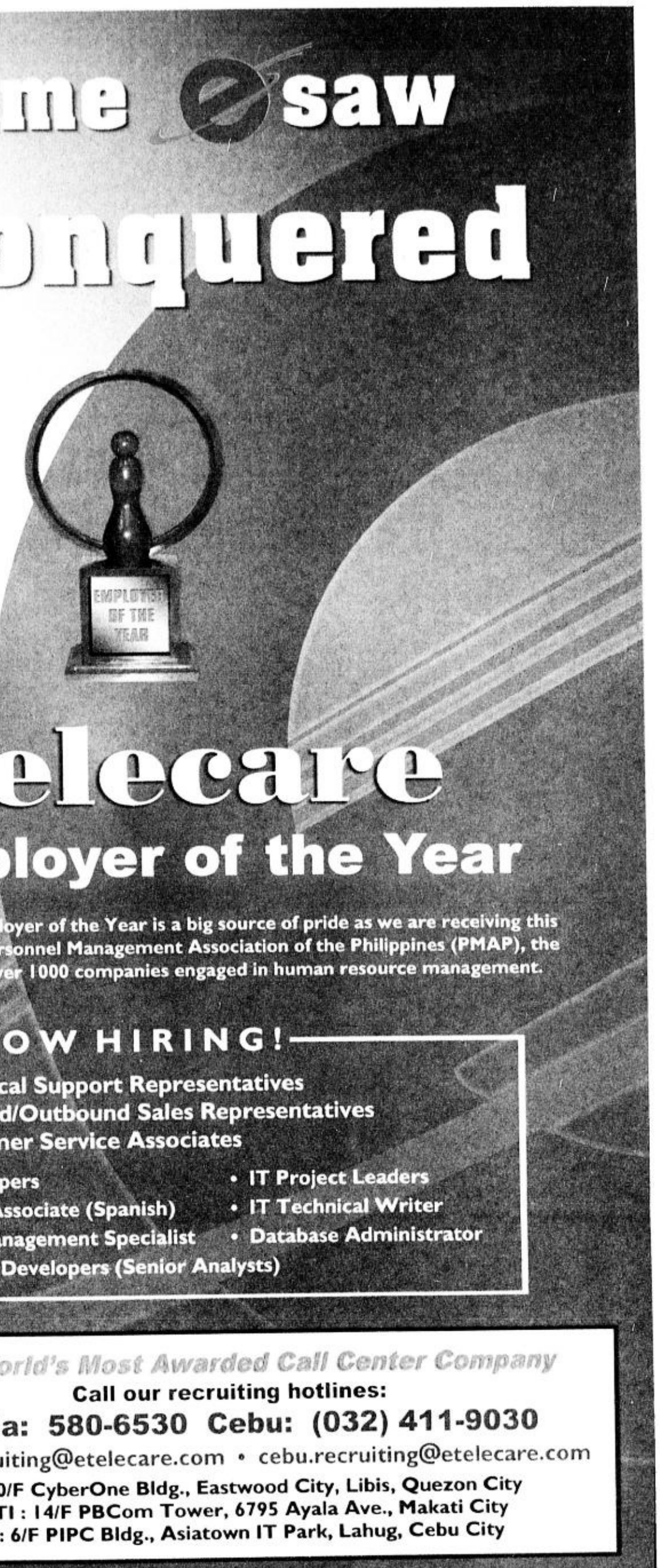

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- **Technical Support Representatives**
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- **Customer Service Associates**
- **Applications Developers**
- **Quality Assurance Associate (Spanish)**
- **Corporate Asset Management Specialist**
- **Senior Applications Developers (Senior Analysts)**
- **IT Project Leaders**
- **IT Technical Writer**
- **Database Administrator**

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CEBU : 6/F PIPC Bldg., Asiatown IT Park, Lahug, Cebu City

INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2006
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3 SECTIONS

JOB *Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
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INQUIRER
published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
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P230 per column centimeter every Sunday
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for reservations / cancellations / corrections
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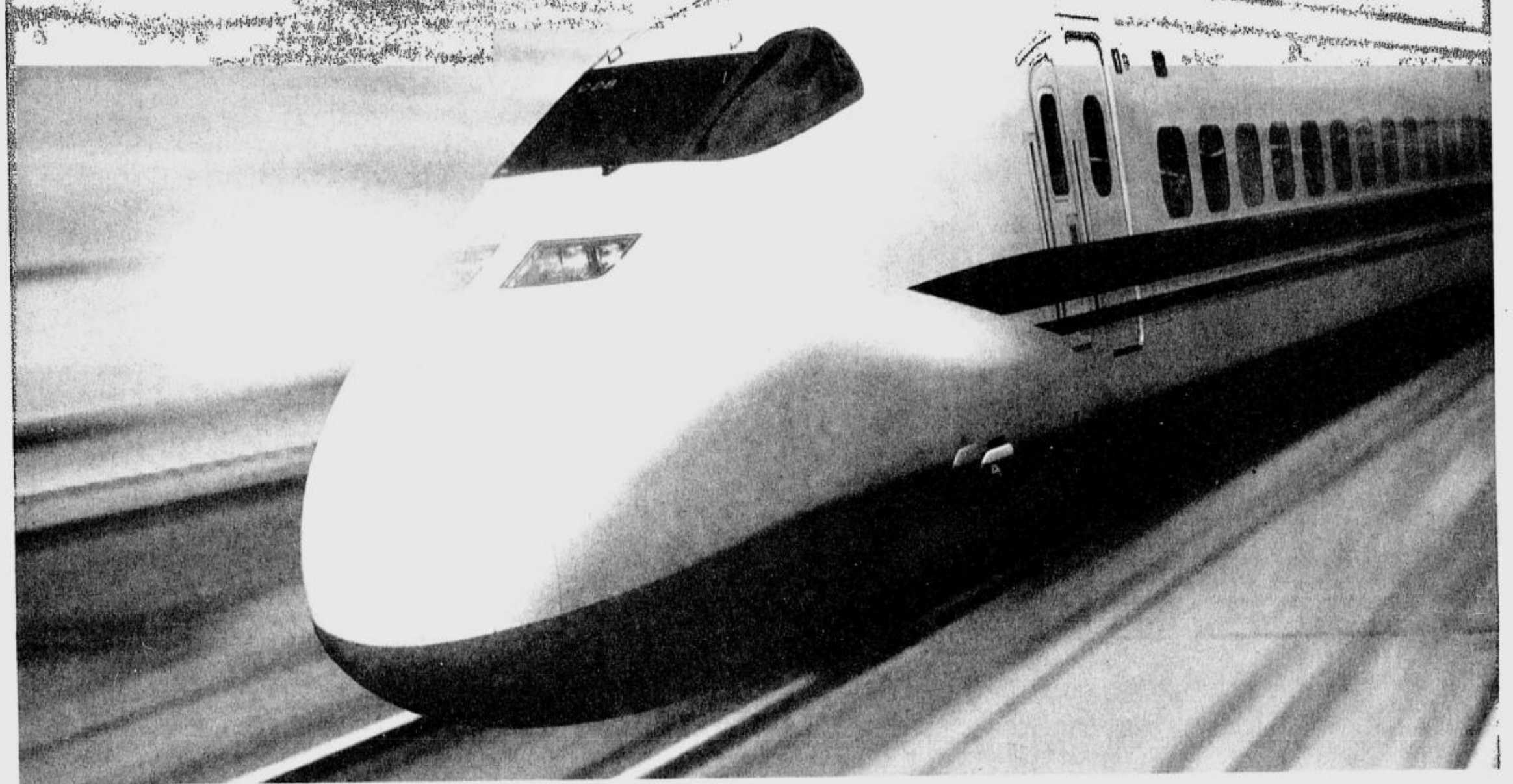
JOBMARKET
on Sunday Issue
of Inquirer

Leap to success.
It's faster with Dell.



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Technical Support Analysts
Technical Support Specialists
Customer Service Representatives

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Email your resume to dell
Call us at 728-[illegible] for more information about our recruitment [illegible]

DELL™
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EOE

Experience: success!

Get connected to a global organization with a career at West Contact Services, Inc. We are a subsidiary of US-based West Corporation with several contact centers located throughout North America, Europe and Asia and are looking for dynamic, self-motivated individuals who demand results.
Apply today!

Agent Opportunities:

- Technical Support Representatives
- Customer Service Representatives
- Teleservices Representatives
- Bilingual Agents (Spanish/English)

Earn premium pay for bilingual positions

Professional Opportunities:

- Systems Technician
- Sr. Systems Technician
- Programmer Analysts

Why Choose West?

- Competitive pay
- Choose your own schedule; flexible full- and part-time opportunities
- Excellent advancement opportunities
- Fun work environment

Guaranteed base wage increases every six months for agent positions!

Excellent English oral and written communication skills required.

Apply Now:

West Contact Services, Inc. • 28/F Exportbank Plaza
Don Chino Roces cor Sen. Gil Puyat, Makati

Phone: 857-7400 • Fax: 857-7431/32
Email: MakatiJobs@west.com

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WANTED IT PROFESSIONALS FOR USA

ePairs is a fast-paced consulting firm with focus on providing advanced, full life-cycle Siebel solutions. The company serves Fortune 1000 companies across the world. An equal opportunity, ePairs offers excellent health care & employee welfare benefits and sponsors for Permanent Residency.

POSITION:	Siebel, DW, SAP Functional, Oracle Application Functional Consultant
QUALIFICATION:	Bachelors degree with 5 + years of IT & 3+ years of specialization in Siebel, Informatica / Microstrategy DW, SAP Analysts/Functional, Oracle Apps' Functional experience. Diverse IT experience & relevant Certification a plus
VENUE:	Makati Shangri-La Hotel, Ayala Ave, Makati City Date: 10th, 11th or 12th of February 2006 from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm Please send in your resumés in advance to jobs@epairs.com.
VISA:	ePairs, Inc. will sponsor H1 B for successful candidates immediately.
JOINING TIME:	Selected candidates are expected to join our US office by Oct / Nov 2006

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Phone: 408-973-8469 / 408-973-8466
www.epairs.com

Associate Business Systems Auditor

Responsibilities

The position is primarily responsible for assisting professional staff in the Financial, Administrative and Information Systems Division (OAGF) in ADB-wide conduct of audits. The audits may extend to financial, accounting, administrative, operational and Information Technology (IT) areas. For the current position, the emphasis is on the review of loan and project administration area. The audit will include bringing out potential recommendations based on appropriate rationalization of findings, maintenance of working papers and records; and preparation of the initial draft report and final report. The incumbent may execute entire audits under the supervision of professional staff or Director, OAGF. Specific responsibilities include:

Audit Strategy, Approach and Techniques

- contributing to the efficient and timely conduct of audits by developing or assisting in developing flexible audit plans, schedules and questionnaires on the basis of preliminary evaluation of qualitative, informative and statistical data in the audit area.
- providing support in developing a suitable audit program to address defined audit objectives.
- participating in formulating sampling procedures and techniques.

Audit Execution

- executing or assisting in the execution of audits in accordance with a suitable and approved audit program to assess compliance with existing policies, systems and procedures, including contracts and arrangements; identifying deficiencies and weaknesses in internal controls; and evaluating effectiveness, efficiency and economy by examining and analyzing existing computer and manual records, reports and any other supporting documentation.
- verifying and discussing with the auditees the deficiencies and/or deviations noted, including potential audit recommendations and measures for corrective action and/or administrative and procedural improvements.

Audit Report Preparation

- ensuring the preparation of comprehensive and concise audit reports containing findings that describe the type and nature of deviations or deficiencies and related recommendations to address above.
- discussing draft reports with the auditee departments/offices.
- monitoring the status of recommendations and conducting the periodic follow-up regarding their status

Assistance to External Auditors

- conducting the examinations of selected transaction in specific areas to assist the ADB's External Auditors in the audit of the ADB's Financial Statements.

Audit Missions and Other Duties

- participating in the preparation of mission papers.
- performing other duties as may be assigned.

Reporting Arrangement

The position reports to one or more professional staff of OAGF.

Selection Criteria

Specific criteria include:

- suitability to undertake the responsibilities mentioned at the required level.
- a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with major in Accounting; and qualification as a Certified Public Accountant (CPA) or Certified Internal Auditor.
- at least five years experience in internal audit of financial institutions, Supreme Audit Institution (COA) or similar relevant work in a CPA firm.
- thorough understanding of auditing principles and techniques as well as management reporting systems; working knowledge of computer audit tools and standard computer software
- thorough understanding of principles of internal control systems; an understanding of loan and project administration, especially government projects, and their risks is highly desirable.
- strong analytical and organizational skills. Ability to take a body of data and information, and organize the component ideas into a logical sequence for written and/or oral presentation, taking into account the need to express the overall concepts clearly and explain the sometimes complex interrelationships among the findings and recommendations; ability to determine which details are appropriate to include, and which should be omitted, based on the intended purpose, scope and audience of the presentation; ability to present the resulting information in clear, concise, grammatical English, either orally or in writing as the situation may require
- ability to meet and interact with auditees organization-wide and work as a team member in the Office of the Auditor General (OAG); an ability to obtain the cooperation and assistance of auditees, convey audit findings unemotionally and without personal criticism; and an ability to draft initial recommendations that will address audit concerns, take account of the resources available to the auditee and be compatible with related auditee operations

The Asian Development Bank's vision is a region free of poverty. Established in 1966 and headquartered in Manila, Philippines, ADB's multicultural staff come from about 50 member countries. ADB's Headquarters in Manila generally recruits its administrative staff locally from the Philippines. The position is for a three-year fixed-term appointment. ADB offers a highly competitive salary and benefits package applicable to local staff. While the position advertised is for ADB Headquarters in Manila, Philippines, ADB staff must be prepared to serve in any location outside its Headquarters at the discretion of Management.

Apply electronically, quoting **Ref. No. EXT-AS06-016(4)-OAGF** and job title on subject line and attaching application form available on www.adb.org/Employment/apform.asp to e-mail address: CS-jobs@adb.org by **10 February 2006**.

Due to the expected large number of applications, only shortlisted candidates will be contacted. Applications lacking the job reference number and job title or using the wrong e-mail address will not be considered.

Asian Development Bank ADB

www.adb.org

Vacancy Announcement for Consultancy Service

Background: ACTION CONTRA EL HAMBRE (ACH) is a Spanish humanitarian, voluntary, non-governmental (N.G.O.), non-religious, non-political and non-profit making organization. ACH has been providing assistance to vulnerable populations in the Philippines since May 2000 in food security, water and sanitation, health and nutrition. ACH is looking for a **short term consultancy** to evaluate the achievements and impacts of one of its project implemented in Mindanao. From beginning of 2004 till end of March 2006, ACH has implemented a "three–phase" project cycle (technical and social survey, project implementation and project consolidation) to support the returnees' communities affected by the 2003 conflict in central Mindanao, through water, sanitation and food security activities.

In order to undertake the evaluation, the consultancy team will consider the following criteria: relevance/pertinence, sustainability, economic and financial analysis, short and mid-term impact/ objectives' achievements for both components of the project (water – sanitation and food security), effectiveness, efficiency, gender integration and general recommendations/lessons learnt.

Methodology: The evaluation will follow a four-step process:

- Briefing: review of the project documents and meeting with ACH officers in Manila and Cotabato City.
- Field activities: collecting information through field surveys and interviews with beneficiaries and representatives (local authorities, government line agencies, partner I/NGO's, barangay's officials and leaders), visits provided to some construction sites and to the facilities built.
- Analysis of the information collected from different sources.
- Elaboration of the final report with recommendations/lessons learnt.

Qualification requirements for the consultancy team

- University degree in Water-Sanitation and Food Security and, at least, 10 years experience in related field
- Previous experience in evaluating projects and programs, in the field of emergency / post emergency situation (IDP/returnees),
- A good knowledge of central Mindanao context is essential,
- English – Tagalog are compulsory / Maguindanaon is an asset
- Able to travel and conduct field visits and surveys

Duration: Four (4) weeks, starting date by **February 20th, 2006** (deadline for final report is March 20th 2006). The deadline for proposals is: **10th of February 2006** **Technical proposal** (including a detailed CV of the consultancy team and past experience) and **financial proposal** (including transport facilities/different allowances) should be sent no later than February 10th to:

Head of Mission / Accion Contra el Hambre
Unit D, 12th Floor, PET Plans Tower
444, EDSA Guadalupe, Makati City 1211 / Tel # (632) 897-2225

An electronic version is simultaneously required to the following e-mail address: achfilipinas@pldtdsl.net

Ridgewood Residence, located at 17 Julian Felipe St., Brgy. Lualhati, Bagulo City and one of city's newest hotels, is in need of

Sales Account Officers

Job Description:
Will be responsible in developing corporate accounts in Metro Manila
Qualifications:
College graduates from the localities (towns and cities in Metro Manila);
Highly motivated; aggressive; hardworking;
Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino;
Must have pleasing personality;
Male or female 21-25 years old;
Attractive compensation package – salary plus commission;
Background in sales is not necessary but an advantage.

Send your resumé and photocopy of transcript of records to Ridgewood Resources & Development Corporation, 2nd floor, Rocka Bldg., Poblacion, Guiguinto Bulacan. Address your application letter to Ms. Ritamaria R. Kalalang, General Manager, Ridgewood Resources & Development Corporation

You can e-mail your resumé and photocopy of transcript of records to: ridgewoodhotel@yahoo.com or rocka_group@yahoo.com

The Leader in Amusement Rides Manufacturing urgently needs the following personnel to compliment its expansion:

ACCOUNTING CLERKS

- M or F at least 20 years old
- Accountancy Graduate / Accounting Major
- Proficient in computer operations (Word, Excel, etc.)
- Hardworking & Fast-learner
- Preferably residents of Quezon City and nearby areas
- Fresh Graduates are welcome however, accounting work experience is an added advantage.

Please submit updated resumé, Transcript of Records & photo to
WESTECH INTERNATIONAL PHILS., INC
No. 2 Lanete Street corner Narig Street, Veteran's Village
Project 7, Quezon City
Telephone: 372-8701 to 03
or email us at "westech@pldtdsl.net"

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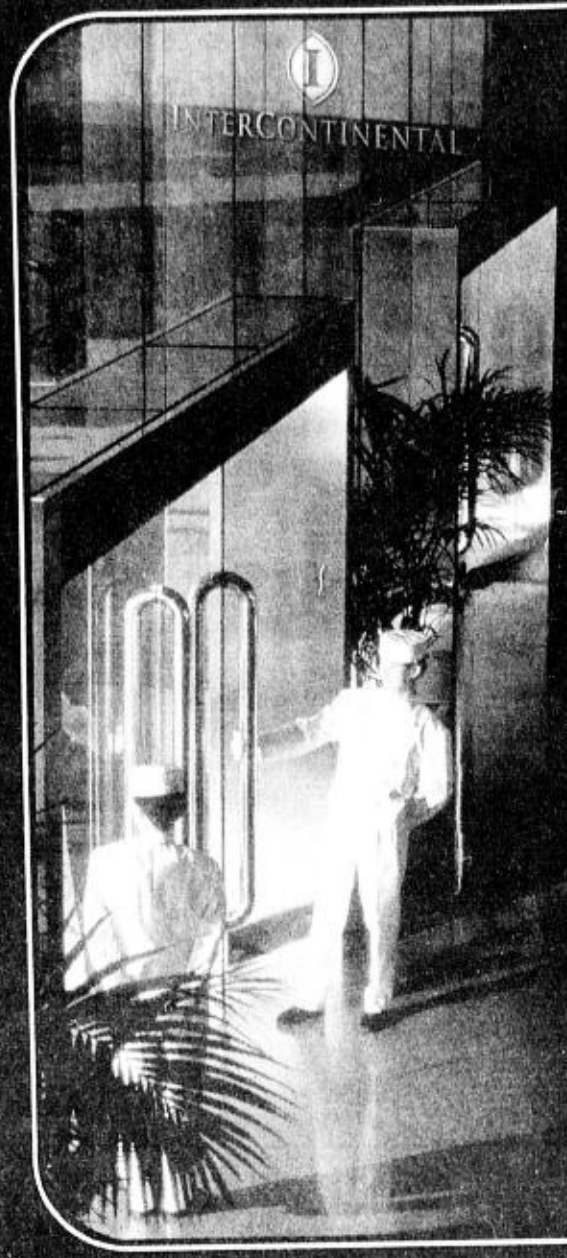

Come join our team. We are looking for:

TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT SPECIALISTS

Job summary

- Responsible for daily maintenance of desktop systems environment, including all hardware, software and computer systems
- Will perform administration and trouble-shooting of servers as assigned

Requirements

- Graduate of any 4-year computer-related course or an equivalent combination of education and experience
- Preferably Microsoft NT/2000/2003 and Exchange Administration certified
- 3+ years of technical experience in server environments and desktop support
- Strong ability and knowledge in several of the following areas: Macintosh OS, Windows OS, Server Administration (Exchange, NT/2000/2003, Apple), network hardware and wiring, TCP/IP and/or Appletalk protocol configuration
- Strong ability to perform maintenance and trouble-shooting for hardware and software components of desktop systems
- Must have excellent English communication skills
- Must be willing to work on a rotating shift

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES / RESERVATION SALES AGENTS

Job summary

- Will interact with the frequent stayer program members of InterContinental Hotels Group from around the globe
- Will interact with customers and be the initial point of contact for general reservations inquiries adhering to the rate strategy procedures of InterContinental Hotels Group

Requirements

- Must be a Bachelor/College degree holder
- Flexible to graveyard and shifting schedules
- Must have excellent written and verbal communication skills with high attention to details
- Customer service and/or sales experience an advantage
- Education or experience in the hospitality or IT industry an advantage
- Fresh graduates are encouraged to apply

ABOUT US

With more than 3,800 hotels in 6 continents across more than 100 countries, WE are the most global Hotel Company.

Our frequent stayer program is the largest in the world with 24 million members to date!

Our compensation and benefits are considered one of the best in the industry and employees have benefits in any of our hotel brands around the world!

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ADDRESS 29/F, Tower II, RCBC Plaza, 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
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EMAIL phlro.resumes@ichotelsgroup.com
WEBSITE www.ichotelsgroup.com

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Walk-in applicants are welcome.

A multinational company engaged in the distribution and marketing of consumer and household products, is in **urgent** need of:

IT OFFICER

(Vacancy Code: HR 01)

Position Summary: To develop system support and strengthen Solomon Software as main system, to manage and maintain local area network & remote access within branches and to troubleshoot and maintain computer hardware and software.

Qualifications:

1. Degree in Computer Science, Information Technology or its equivalent.
2. At least 2 years experience in IT, preferably in the development and / or programming capacity.
3. With technical competencies in: MS Windows XP, Microsoft Server 2003, Microsoft Office, Anti Virus Software and other general application software, mastering Visual Basic Programming, Crystal Reports, knowledge with SQL database environment such as SQL views, tables, database and data relationships/normalization, familiar with Solomon Accounting System and knowledge of LAN.
4. Can work with minimum supervision, above average analytical capability, fast learner, team player, good communication and documentation skills and can work long hours, if needed.

COST ACCOUNTING OFFICER

(Vacancy Code: HR 02)

Position Summary: To ensure accuracy of inventory reports and the validity of costs of sales, quantity and its value affecting FS reporting.

Qualifications:

1. Degree in Bachelor of Science in Accountancy.
2. At least 3 years experience in the same capacity, having supervisory skills.
3. With technical competencies in: Familiar with Solomon Accounting System, preferred, but not necessary.
4. Can work with minimum supervision, above average analytical capability, fast learner, team player, good communication and documentation skills and can work long hours, if needed.

ACCOUNTS RECEIVABLE OFFICER

(Vacancy Code: HR 03)

Position Summary: To ensure accuracy of receivables, timely aging reports and validity of claims and charges.

Qualifications:

1. Degree in Bachelor of Science in Accountancy.
2. At least 2 years experience in the same capacity.
3. With technical competencies in: Familiar with Solomon Accounting System, preferred, but not necessary.
4. Can work with minimum supervision, above average analytical capability, fast learner, team player, good communication and documentation skills and can work long hours, if needed.

Interested applicants should email their application letter indicating the vacancy code and resumé at hrdcontroller@yahoo.com on or before February 20, 2006.

JOB Market

VISIT US AT www.jobmarketonline.com

THE WORLD BANK
Requires a
TEAM ASSISTANT

The World Bank Office Manila (WBOM) has a vacancy for **top caliber Team Assistant** to provide efficient and high-quality secretarial and administrative support to managers. This position will be for a two-year term appointment, subject to one-year probationary period, with possibility of renewal.

Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

Provide wide range of administrative and secretarial support to the managers in the discharge of tasks, including: organizing and executing the Philippines Development Forum including managing its website; organizing and documenting the annual programming discussions with Government; preparing detailed itineraries and briefing books for visiting high-level Bank officials; organizing regular donor meetings, and organizing signing ceremonies and other high-profile events involving the Country Director. Regular secretarial and administrative support will include: maintaining schedules and/or appointments and arranging meetings and travels; independently drafting correspondence i.e. memoranda, letters, faxes, e-mails; producing high quality word processing and powerpoint materials; proofreading and editing of a variety of reports, correspondence and documents ensuring compliance with standard procedures, screening and prioritizing communications and telephone calls; liaise with external clients and partners, managing the flow of information and monitoring/following up on outstanding issues and deadlines; handling administrative and logistic arrangements for conferences/seminars/workshops; establishing and maintaining an effective database of network of contacts; ensuring efficient records management and maintaining full familiarity with pertinent documents/reports; assisting with administrative procedures and dealing with sensitive and confidential information.

Selection criteria:

- College degree in any Social Science or Business courses;
- Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to establish and maintain excellent work relations in a team environment and deal effectively and tactfully with all levels of staff;
- High degree of initiative, flexibility and resourcefulness with a drive for efficiency and results;
- Excellent organizational skills, ability to prioritize assignment and work effectively under pressure with minimum supervision;
- Excellent written and verbal communication skills in English and Filipino;
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Database program);
- Thorough working knowledge of general office procedures, machines and e-mails; and
- Minimum five (5) years experience in secretarial and administrative work, preferably with high ranking officials.

The World Bank offers a competitive compensation package based on the local market, and attractive medical and pension plans.

Please send your application letter, with a comprehensive resumé with details of your work experience, academic records, recent photo, references (at least three names with full contact details) not later than **February 10, 2006.**

Only applicants who will be short-listed will be called upon for interview. Send the above to the address below:

PROFESSIONAL STAFFERS, (A Division of John Clements)
Level 12B, LKG Tower, 6801 Ayala Avenue, Makati City
Telephone: (+63 2) 884-1227, 884-1167
Look for: **Maya Benga**
E-mail Address: prostaffers@johnclements.com
visit: www.johnclements.com

We are looking for:

MALE OR FEMALE
COLLEGE GRADUATE, (Marketing graduate preferred) not more than 25 years old, Good Moral Character, Computer Literate and proficient in oral and written English.

Please send letter of application with bio-data, transcript of records to:

THE MANAGER
BESTMATCH ENTERPRISES,
26 ORANGE ST., SSS VILLAGE,
MARIKINA CITY
E-mail: cblayco@bestmatch.com.ph

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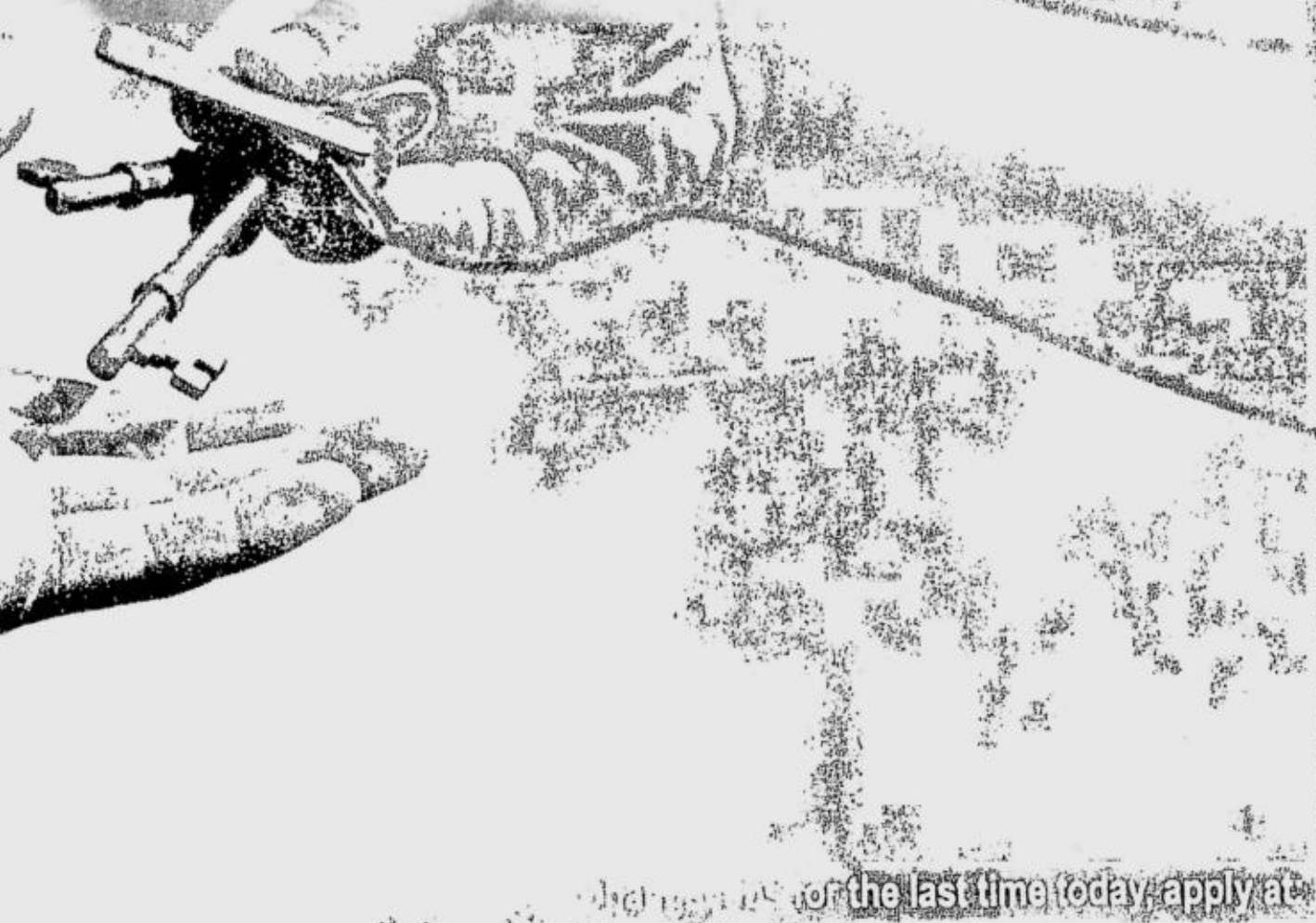

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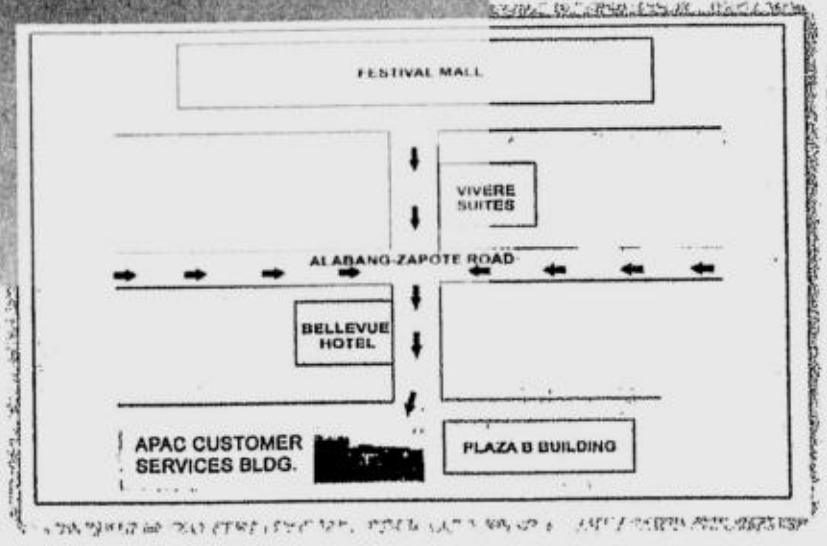

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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

JOB Market

SUNDAY, JANUARY 29, 2006
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JOB*Market* is exclusively for job advertisements.
This special section comes FREE with your copy of the
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published every Sunday and distributed in key cities
RATES (E-VAT exclusive)
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DEADLINES
for reservations / cancellations / corrections
Thursday 12:00 noon

Get a copy of JOB MARKET on Sunday Issue of Inquirer
PEOPLE AT WORK ON PAGES 8, 9 & 10

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HUMAN RESOURCES
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Recruitment Manager
Employee Relations Officer
Recruitment Officers (Cebu and Davao)
Recruitment Associate (Davao)
Recruitment Assistants (Manila, Cebu and Davao)

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Director, Quality Management
Forcedesk Manager
Workforce Manager
Operations Manager, Financial Services
Team Supervisor, Financial Services
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Telecommunications Manager
Consulting Manager
CMS Administrator
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The Tasks

Evaluates and manages credit risks of Intermediary Financial Institutions (IFIs) under a wholesale lending program designed to expand Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) loans. Recommends actions to credit committee as a result of credit review. Provides continued close attention to and monitoring of IFIs under his/her supervision. Classifies accounts and performs corrective actions. Assists in the development and implementation of an enterprise support program that encompasses training, research and policy advocacy to strengthen competencies of SMEs and intermediary financial institutions.

The Requirements

Interested applicants must have a college degree in Business, Banking and Finance or Economics, preferably with Master's Degree. He/she has a minimum of 3 years relevant work experience in financial accounting and analysis, account management, exposure to operations in banking and credit management. He/she must have excellent marketing presentation and technical writing skills, and exceptional leadership qualities. Substantial exposure to SME market and operations is an advantage.

Please forward your resume and transcript of records on or before 10 February 2006 to:

THE HRD MANAGER
Philippine Business for Social Progress
Philippine Social Development Center, Magallanes
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- At least 2 to 3 years experiences in Technical Sales Marketing on Water Treatment, Waste Water Treatment, Eng'g. Operations & other Preventive Chemicals.
- High commissions, Contract project w/ R.O.I. with car, with traveling Expenses Budget, and other Company Benefits.
- Bring with you your resumé, for personal interview at **6th Floor Northridge Plaza # 12 Congressional Ave., Q.C.** Monday to Friday from 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Tel. No. 928-8357 or 928-8290. CP # 09275912373; 09196868053
- Look for Ms. Gerosa "Rose" Beros. Previous applicant need not apply.

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- Not more than 54 years old

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- Not more than 45 years old

1st ASST. ENGINEER
- Salary - US$ 4,000 per month
- Not more than 45 years old

SECOND OFFICER
- Salary - US$ 2,698 per month
- Not more than 35 years old

2nd ASST. ENGINEER
- Salary - US$ 2,698 per month
- Not more than 35 years old

THIRD OFFICER
- Salary - US$ 2,335 per month
- Not more than 30 years old

3rd ASST. ENGINEER
- Salary - US$ 2,335 per month
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(Salary - US$ 2,698 per month)

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(Salary - US$ 1,737 per month)

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- Not more than 40 years old
- At least 5 years Tanker Experience
- With minimum of 1 year Experience on the Position applied

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APPLICANTS MUST BE:
- Between 20 - 30 years old, male or female
- Graduates of Communications, PR or related courses from leading universities
- Creative and equipped with excellent oral and written communication skills
- Hard-working, resourceful, organized and willing to learn

SECRETARY

APPLICANTS MUST BE:
- Female, 20 - 26 years old
- Graduates of 4-year college course
- Proficient in English and computer-literate
- Hard-working, resourceful, organized and willing to learn

ACCOUNTING CLERK

APPLICANTS MUST BE:
- Male or Female, 23 - 29 years old
- Graduates of Accounting
- Knowledgeable & experienced in bookkeeping and basic accounting procedures
- Computer-literate

Interested applicants may send their comprehensive resumes, including position applied for, latest 2x2 photo and contact number, through the following:

Fax: **891-3472**
Email. **jobs@perceptions-inc.com**

Application documents should be sent in by February 6, 2006. Only shortlisted candidates will be notified.

ARCHITECT

Qualifications:

Minimum of 10 years office and site experience in high-end residential projects. Proficiency in AutoCAD, MS Office, architectural detailing, manual drafting, freehand drawing and rendering. Excellent oral and written communication skills.

Please send resumé to PERIQUET GALICIA Lighting Design • Interior Architecture, 4/F Solid House Bldg., 2285 Pasong Tamo Ext., Makati or Fax to 894-4707

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Ms. TESS SEGURA at 935-5262
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CALL CENTER AGENTS

At least second year college / graduate of any course; Eighteen (18) years old and above
Able to effectively communicate in English; Willing to work in various shifts including graveyard shift

TECHNICAL SUPPORT REPRESENTATIVES

Must possess at least a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science, Information Technology, or its equivalent
Technical background is an advantage

CLIENT SERVICE MANAGER

Two(2)-three(3) years in a call center; Should have excellent presentation skills
Detail-oriented; Team player

ASSISTANT CALL CENTER MANAGER

ACCM level / comparative to current or previous experience;
One (1) year of customer service experience; Has strong background in computer applications; Outgoing/ Friendly/ Mature; Active listening skills; Strong motivational skills

TRAINERS (Technical Account)

Excellent presentation skills; Strong technical background is a must; Call center experience is an advantage; Team-oriented & able to work in a fast-paced environment

SUPERVISORS / TEAM LEADERS

At least one (1) year in customer service in a call center; Technical experience is a plus
Outgoing friendly and mature; Strong motivational skills

LOG-IN ADMINISTRATOR (Workforce Management)

Six (6) months of Call Center Operations or Workforce experience a must;
must have excellent customer service skills; must be computer literate;
ability to use E-mail extended e-mail functions, word processing & spreadsheets

QUALITY ASSURANCE ANALYSTS

Must have at least six (6) months call center experience; must demonstrate honesty, reliability & ability to follow Corporate QA directives; Strong attention to details

MISSION CONTROL ANALYSTS

Must have at least six (6) months customer service experience; one (1) year call center experience; ability to work under pressure, meet deadlines & be accountable for the performance of others; demonstrated leadership skills, dependability and initiative; flexible schedule

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
DATA ANALYST

At least (6) months administrative assistant experience in a fast-paced environment; excellent skills in Microsoft Word, Excel, Powerpoint, Project and Outlook; Internet savvy; excellent organizational and communication skills; ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; excellent time management skills; strong attention to detail

PROCESSING SPECIALIST

Able to work in a fast-paced environment; proficient in Microsoft Excel; excellent time management skills; ability to prioritize and complete multi-task assignments; strong attention to detail

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Competitive salary (including mid-year and year-end bonuses), health and life insurance, supplementary retirement plan are offered.

Application letter with 2x2 photo and comprehensive resumé must be received **no later than February 3, 2006**.

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ACCOUNTING CLERK

- ☐ Accounting graduate
- ☐ With experience an advantage but not necessary
- ☐ Preferably Parañaque resident

Please send or ***email*** your Bio-data with 1"x1" ID photo to:

CHEM SETTER MARKETING CORP.
Richill Industrial Compound
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Email address: chemset@vasia.com
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Please email your resumé to:

TRANSCOMUNICARE INTERNATIONAL INC.
trans_comunicare_intl@yahoo.com

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At least one year experience in a Tertiary Laboratory set-up; Has initiative and works well with a team; Computer literate; preferably resides in the Mandaluyong/Pasig area

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Outgoing, energetic, assertive; Good communication skills; Reliable and trustworthy; Preferably graduate of B.S. Medical Technology; Computer literate

Customer Relations Representative *(field work)*

College graduate; Presentable, charming and good fashion sense; Exceptional communication skills; Good listening skills; Problem-solver; Experience in customer service/HRM an advantage; Willing to go on field

Courier (Full-time)

Has vast knowledge of the streets of Metro Manila and nearby provinces (Laguna, Cavite, Batangas, Rizal); Reliable and trustworthy; Preferably with own motorcycle & resides in the Mandaluyong/Pasig area; At least high school graduate

Send application letter and resumé with picture to:

American Bio-Clinical Laboratories International
Richville Corporate Tower, Madrigal Business Park
Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City

SALES SUPERVISOR

- Male/Female, age not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- At least 2 years experience in a fast moving consumer goods
- Good negotiating and excellent analytical skills
- Result oriented, excellent, creative and strategic thinker
- Must possess written and oral communication skills

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT REPRESENTATIVE

- Male/Female, age not more than 35 years old
- Graduate of any 4 year course
- At least 2 years experience in a fast moving consumer goods
- Good negotiating and excellent analytical skills
- Result oriented, excellent creative and strategic thinker, must possess written and oral communication skills

ACCOUNTING STAFF

- Female, 21 to 28 years old
- Graduate of any 4 year course, preferably accounting graduate
- Computer literate (MS word, excel, etc.)
- Must possess written and oral communication skills
- Can work with minimum supervision

Submit Resumé, ID picture, Transcript of Records and apply at:

Rm. 1722 Tytana Plaza Center,
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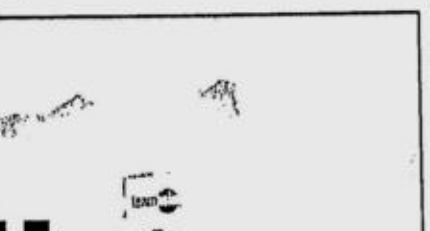

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Applicants for these positions should be:

- At least 25 years old
- With a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration, Marketing, or Engineering
- Computer Literate (MS Office Package)
- Highly Organized, Dynamic, can work effectively in a fast paced environment
- With Pleasing Personality, Good Interpersonal Skills, Oral and Written Communication Skills

Applicants for Marketing Manager and Underwriting Manager should have at least 5 years experience in Insurance Broking and/or Underwriting

For other positions, work experience in the Insurance Industry is an advantage.

Interested applicants may send or fax their resumés to:
Suite 710 Prestige Tower Emerald Avenue, Ortigas Center, Pasig City
Fax No. 635-2053
Attn: Ms. Sharon G. Ollero

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female (23-30 years of age)
College graduate, Major in Accounting or BMA grad
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Suite 4101 Summit One Tower Bldg., 530 Shaw Blvd. Mandaluyong City or e-mail at: nishinmetal@pldtdsl.net or call: 532-8885 up to 86

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- Mascot performer
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Minimum requirements:
6 months of related professional experience
Pleasing personality
5'4" for Female / 5'7" for Male (height)
Proficiency in spoken English language

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

VACANT POSITIONS

POSITION: **DIRECTOR IV (2 vacancies)**
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT: ELECTRIC POWER INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT BUREAU, ENERGY UTILIZATION MANAGEMENT BUREAU
ITEM NUMBER: OSEC-DOEB-DIR4-8, 4-2002,
SALARY GRADE: 28
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
EDUCATION: A GRADUATE OF ENGINEERING, ECONOMICS OR MANAGEMENT PREFERABLY WITH MASTERAL DEGREE
EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS OF SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE
TRAINING: NONE REQUIRED
ELIGIBILITY: CAREER SERVICE EXECUTIVE ELIGIBILITY (CSEE) CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE (CES)

POSITION: **DIRECTOR III (3 vacancies)**
PLACE OF ASSIGNMENT: ENERGY POLICY & PLANNING BUREAU, OIL INDUSTRY MANAGEMENT BUREAU, *LEGAL SERVICE
ITEM NUMBER: OSEC-DOEB-DIR3-2, 3, 5-2002
SALARY GRADE: 27
QUALIFICATION STANDARDS:
EDUCATION: A GRADUATE OF ENGINEERING, ECONOMICS OR MANAGEMENT PREFERABLY WITH MASTERAL DEGREE; BACHELOR OF LAWS*
EXPERIENCE: 3 YEARS OF SUPERVISORY EXPERIENCE
TRAINING: NONE REQUIRED
ELIGIBILITY: CAREER SERVICE EXECUTIVE ELIGIBILITY (CSEE) CAREER EXECUTIVE SERVICE (CES)

All application letters and comprehensive resumés with passport size picture should be submitted to the Human Resources Management Division, Administrative Service, Department of Energy, Energy Center, Merritt Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City, with telephone numbers 8401401-21 loc. 354 or 217 and e-mail address **ebalaoing@doe.gov.ph** no later than 13 February, 2006.

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bighead

This urgent notice heads to those who want to penetrate the radically competitive world of advertising.

> ART DIRECTOR
If you're an experienced Graphic Artist, if you think now is the time for you to take your career to greater heights, then you're the one that we're looking for. To boot, you just have to be a Team Player, someone who can completely and independently handle assigned accounts and project and capable of real-time creative output.

> ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE
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> COPYWRITER
We are looking for someone who, aside from having a unique and creative way with words, has skills in proofreading and impeccable grammar.

Email your comprehensive resumes to apply_bighead@yahoo.com. Indicate desired position as subject. Competitive compensation packages await qualified applicants... rookies need not apply.

PHILIPPINE HEART CENTER
East Avenue, Quezon City
is now accepting applications for
Academic Year 2006

FELLOWSHIPS

I. 3-Year Fellowship Training Program in Adult Cardiology*
   - 3 years Residency in Internal Medicine accredited by PCP
   - PCP Diplomate

II. 1-Year Subspecialty Fellowship Training Program in Electrophysiology, Cardiac Rehabilitation, Non-Invasive Cardiology, Invasive Cardiology, Peripheral Vascular and Critical Care Cardiology*
   - Completed 3 years Fellowship in Cardiology in PCP and PCC accredited institutions.
   - Submit a research proposal
   - Certificate of Fellowship

III. Adult Pulmonary Medicine*
   - PCP Diplomate

* *Deadline for submission of application is on February 27, 2006*
* *Academic Year 2006 starts on April 1, 2006*

IV. CV Anesthesiology Division**
   - 3 years Residency in General Anesthesia accredited by PBA (Board eligible)

V. Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery Division**
   - 4 years Residency in General Surgery accredited by PCS (Board eligible)

VI. Pediatric Pulmonary Medicine**
   - PCP Diplomate

** *Deadline for submission of application is on February 17, 2006*
** *Academic Year 2006 starts on April 1, 2006*

VII. Pediatric Cardiology
   - 3 years Residency in General Pediatric accredited by PPS
   - at least passed written examination for Diplomate in Pediatrics by the PPS

You can submit your application as soon as possible.

General Requirements:

1. Medical Diploma
2. Transcript of Records with the General Weighted Average
3. Itemized Board Rating
4. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation with at least one letter written by the Training Officer &/or Director of the previous Training Programs (duplicate letters or photocopies signed by different Doctors will not be accepted)
5. Four (4) pcs. 2" x 2" picture colored
6. Certificate of Residency in required specialty
7. Specialty Board Certificate in required specialty

Please address your communications to:
ARISTIDES G. PANLILIO, M.D.
Department Manager II
Office of Education and Research
Philippine Heart Center
East Avenue, Quezon City

For further inquiries, please contact Ms. Carmela M. Ocasion or Ms. Cleopatra Q. Palencia with Tel. Nos. 925-2401 locals 3234, 3235, 3236 & 3237 and Telefax 926-9622, or you can email to: oer@phc.gov.ph

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Audit Staff (2)

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Computer Technician

FOR EDP DEPARTMENT:
Programmer

FOR CREATIVE DEPARTMENT:
Graphic Artist

Qualification Requirements:
- Male and Female applicants are welcome to apply
- For Accounting positions: Only Male applicants will be entertained
- Not more than 30 years old
- Minimum of at least 2 years work related experience
- Has excellent communication skills
- Computer literate

Due to the urgency of the above positions, qualified applicants are requested to apply in person, with their updated resumé and recent photo to: **355 P. Tuazon Blvd. cor. 21st Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City or you can send it via-email; cubao@edmark-intl.com**

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Software Developer
- Proficient in Java & other Web Integrated Language
- PHP/MYSQL Knowledge is advantage

Web Programmer
- Proficient in PHP/MSQL
- Able to do a friendster like CMS
- Java knowledge is an advantage

Contact Andrew
at 753-1045 to 46

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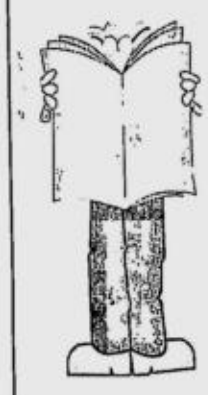

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BAHAGINAN
Be a Kabahagi! Fight Global Poverty and Discrimination!

VSO Bahaginan is a national member agency of the **Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Federation,** an international development organization that works through, and with, volunteers, sending them in nearly 40 countries. More than 200 Filipinos have been deployed, with more than a hundred now serving as volunteers in some of the poorest countries in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. VSO Bahaginan also promotes and supports national volunteering and other volunteering development initiatives in the Philippines and in Asia and the Pacific.

VSO Bahaginan is currently looking for a **PROGRAMME MANAGER, VOLUNTEERING DEVELOPMENT & PROGRAMME SUPPORT (Job Code: PMVolDev)** to take the lead in providing support for national volunteering in Southeast Asia and the Pacific through VSO Programme Offices, and lead VSO Bahaginan's national volunteering framework and strategy. The Programme Manager, Volunteering Development and Programme Support reports regularly to the Director. *Please note this is a staff position.*

Key Responsibilities

Volunteering Development and Partnership Development

1. Provide support for VSO's National Volunteering (NV) in Southeast Asia and the Pacific, in close coordination with VSO Programme offices and VSO Regional Programme Manager.
2. Liaise with Global Volunteering Team and NV programme-partners within VSO to share best practices and identify standards of programming and opportunities for collaboration.
3. Work with Fundraising Officer to identify potential funding sources in support of volunteering development initiatives.
4. Responsible for collating and sharing experience and encouraging learning about NV work.
5. Manage the development and implementation of VSO Bahaginan's NV strategy.
6. Develop special projects to take forward VSO's work in national volunteering and volunteering development.
7. Collaborate with programme offices, VSO volunteers and partners to research, develop and implement Learning through International Networking and Knowledge Sharing (LINKS) programmes.
8. Coordinate with programme offices and other parts of VSO to develop partnerships and new volunteering initiatives.

Program Management

1. Monitor ongoing volunteering development programmes and develop problem-solving strategies.
2. Collaborate with relevant VSO Bahaginan staff and partner agencies to ensure that Global Xchange (GXP) volunteer recruitment, assessment, training, program and inquiries coordination needs are met.
3. Share development and communication of volunteering development & program support and policies/procedures to staff.

Human Resources Management – (Volunteering Development & Program Support Team)

1. Line management of NV Programme Support Officer, Partnership & Fund Raising Officer, Training & Development Advisor, and GXP Project Supervisor.
2. Facilitate access to information, resources and functional support needed by staff.

Finance and Administration

1. Monitoring of Volunteering Development budget, including ensuring that financial reports are in order and the development of annual Vol Dev budget in collaboration with other Bahaginan managers and the Global Volunteering Manager in the UK.
2. Management of annual objective setting and work plans.
3. Develop and monitor memorandums of understanding (MOUs) with NV partners.

General

1. Participate and work effectively as part of the management team and staff.

Essential Qualifications:

- Minimum 8 years relevant work experience, preferably with at least 2 years working with volunteers or voluntary sector
- At least 5 years experience in supporting and leading individuals and team learning
- Possess a good understanding of the professional and personal challenges of volunteering in developing countries
- Knowledge and skill in programme development, partnership-development, and fundraising
- Excellent communication skills, very good command of English language is essential
- Computer-literate, including powerpoint presentation skills

Deadline for Submission of Application: Feb 19, 2006
Interview Dates: TBA
Post Starts: March 15, 2006

For a full description of the post, please visit **www.vsobahaginan.org.ph.** CVs and resumés will not be accepted as applications to this post. Interested applicants must accomplish the VSO Staff Application Form, which can be downloaded at the VSO Bahaginan website. All applicants should also write an explanatory note (no longer than two paragraphs totaling to 6-8 sentences) for each of the above essential qualifications, explaining why you believe you possess the qualities required for this post. Failure to send explanatory notes will disqualify the applicant.

Please send accomplished VSO Staff Application Form and specify the **Job Code (PMVolDev)** to: **The Director at bahaginan@vsoint.org**

Only shortlisted candidates will be notified. VSO Bahaginan is an equal opportunity employer.

BAHAGINAN
Be a Kabahagi!... Fight Global Poverty and Discrimination!

Change more than just your job.

Be a **VSO Volunteer** and use your skills to change lives—including yours.

VSO Bahaginan is a national member agency of the **Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO) Federation,** an international development organization that works through, and with, volunteers, sending them to nearly 40 of the world's poorest countries.

As a VSO volunteer, you will live and work at the heart of communities in **Africa, Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific.** You could be helping train local doctors or nurses, or assisting the development of livelihood projects. But whatever your placement is, you'll be seeing the change you're making every day in these communities. And you'll find you are changing too – gaining new skills and transforming your life forever.

To date, more than 200 Filipinos have been deployed and currently serving as VSO volunteers. More than just your job, there is so much more that you can change.

HEALTH & ALLIED PROFESSIONS

- **Doctors**
  Local district hospitals are in need of doctors, particularly those specializing in surgery, ob-gyne and pediatrics.
- **Hospital administrators and managers**
  Hospital administrators/managers are likely to be based in a hospital or Non-Governmental Organizations that work in field of HIV and AIDS or Disability.
- **Doctors (teachers)**
  Medical doctors with experience in both the clinical and academic setting. Volunteer will either be handling teaching loads, ward mentoring or assisting in curriculum development.
- **Occupational / Physical therapists**
  Volunteers could be involved in setting up a hospital department/community services or managing a community rehabilitation programme, as well as training of other professionals. Preferably with community rehabilitation background.
- **Medical lab technologists**
  Medical technologists are involved in training local counterparts and upgrading diagnostic services in hospital laboratories. Must have laboratory, and preferably, teaching experience.
- **Health Educators**
  Health educators are frequently involved in mother and child health, training of village health workers, drug awareness, water sanitation, community programmes and HIV/AIDS awareness.
- **Community Health Nurses**
  Placements focus on community-based primary health care, generally involving a combination of clinical nursing and health promotion and informal training with a local counterpart, such as village health workers or nurse assistants.
- **Nurse Clinical Instructors**
  We have a number of requests for adult-trained nurses to teach and train student nurses.
- **Pharmacists**
  Post may require management of dispensaries, including ordering, distribution and advice on the use of drugs. Volunteers may be required to train and supervise the work of local staff both centrally and in peripheral health centers.
- **Others: Audiologists , Dentists, Psychologists**

EDUCATION

- **IT teachers**
  Volunteers are counted on to support the provision of IT education in community education resource centers. A relevant degree and school teaching experience are required for those wishing to volunteer.
- **Primary teachers**
  Volunteer teachers support and train local primary teachers as well as provide support to students and in some instances out-of-school youth.
- **Education managers**
  Mature volunteers with primary and/or high school teaching experience and background in educational planning and administration.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

- **Social and community workers**
  Experienced social workers who have been involved with children and focused on psychiatry, disability, OD and NGO capacity-building, gender are in great demand by local communities. Preferably supervisory level experience.
- **Gender advisers**
  Experienced in advocacy and gender mainstreaming of programmes and services.

BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT

- **Fundraisers**
  Volunteer fundraisers are counted on to create and develop income generation strategies and activities. Preferably experienced and with financial management background.
- **Livelihood advisers/marketing specialists**
  Volunteers work in small community businesses or cooperatives to help identify potential business opportunities, suggest methods for income generation, and marketing of products or services.
- **Handicraft designers**
  Volunteers are expected to help improve product designs to meet the local and international markets.
- **Management advisors**
  Preferably individuals with background in project/programme management and have skills in strategic planning, monitoring & evaluation, human resource management and development, and organizational development.

TECHNICAL & NATURAL RESOURCES

- **Agriculturists**
  Preferably with management and community development background, and a working knowledge of natural resources management systems
- **Irrigation engineers**
  With exposure on community development issues and experience in project planning and environmental management.

Interested applicants for these volunteer placements should be **from 25 to 65 years old, in good health, with at least three years professional relevant experience, able to live for two years on modest living allowance and willing to be assigned where they are most needed.**

Contact us at **bahaginan@vsoint.org** or through postmail by writing to:

The Director
VSO Bahaginan
Unit 505 Pacific Corporate Center
131 West Avenue, Quezon City 1105

Visit **www.vsobahaginan.org.ph** to know more about **VSO Bahaginan** and to download a VSO application form. Get the bigger picture, check out **www.vso.org.uk**

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QUALIFICATIONS:
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- With minimum of 3 years work experience in site construction
- Must be Civil Engineering graduate

OFFICE STAFF

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Male/Female not more than 26 years old
- Must be College graduate
- Computer literate
- Knowledge in Autocad is a plus

TELEPHONE OPERATOR

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Male/Female not more than 35 years old
- Fluent in Japanese and English Languages
- Must be good in Japanese language conversation
- Computer Literate
- At least College Level

Interested applicants must bring bio-data/resumé with 2x2 picture, Diploma, Transcript of Records and SSS Employment History at:

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When asked who among the Filipinos were ready to make a difference...
We raised our hand!

HANDS ON MANILA FOUNDATION, INC.

We are a non-profit organization that creates innovative and diverse volunteer opportunities that support various causes including children welfare, environment, women issues, education, and housing in Metro Manila. We are urgently looking for an

Executive Director

who will take the lead and oversee the overall management of a dynamic team. Applicants must have strong leadership qualities, finance and management background, excellent communication skills, and extensive experience in the non-profit community.

Submit resumé with photo on or before **February 3, 2006** to the Executive Director, Hands On Manila Foundation, Inc., Medical Plaza Building, Amorsolo cor. Dela Rosa Sts, Legaspi Village, 1229, Makati City or email to homla@info.com.ph for detailed job description.

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eTelecare Global Solutions, PMAP's Employer of the Year, needs TOP CALIBER INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY PROFESSIONALS who seek:

Concrete IT career plan
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eTelecare has developed and deployed information technology systems that help make it the world's most awarded call center. The company uses a combination of packaged application and internally developed software to address business automation.

Supportive culture
eTelecare requires its IT supervisors to coach and mentor their subordinates. Every IT supervisor does twice a year performance appraisals of his staff.

Industry-leading compensation package
eTelecare strives to match the compensation of top IT corporations. Quarterly performance-based bonuses can go as high as 25%!

Growth potential
eTelecare targets to open more sites in the Philippines. IT talents are required to support this explosive growth.

Manila Vacancies

Senior Applications Developers (Senior Analysts, Senior Programmers)
- lead projects involving American clients and vendors, exposure to international development practices, challenging system development projects involving coordination with IT and business groups as well as development of technical expertise in packages such as Microsoft Visual Studio.NET, C#, ASP and CRM packages
- (1) Database programmer working on reporting projects, 5 years experience working with Microsoft SQL Server 2000, SQL Analysis Services, Microsoft DTS packages, and Visual Studio.NET projects
- (1) Systems analyst, Operational support and coordination with users located in PI and in the US, 5 years experience working with Microsoft Visual Studio (preferably .NET) and Visual Basic tools

Applications Developers (Programmers, Entry-Level Programmers)
- entails Microsoft C# and ASP.Net-based system development, Microsoft SQL Server database administration and design, CRM package application development, deployment and administration and projects with extensive American client interaction and coordination work
- at least 1 year programming background in Microsoft development tools (Visual Studio, ASP, Visual Basic) and Relational Databases (MS SQL Server)
- fresh graduates with excellent scholastic records are welcome to apply

Database Administrator
- Microsoft SQL Database Administrator (preferably MCDBA certified), with 5 years experience

IT Project Leaders
- entails providing support to new program implementations, working with the business units to improve operations, decrease turn around time, streamline work processes as well as working cooperatively and jointly to provide quality seamless customer service
- preferably at least 3 years work experience in project management, implementation and design of telecom/network infrastructure and/or system analysis, CCNA an advantage

Helpdesk Manager
- entails managing two geographically-separated Help Desk team supporting 12 call centers across the US and the Philippines
- minimum 5 yrs in Help Desk and/or Data Center Operations management position

IT Technical Writer
- manage day to day coordination with US and PH IT resources to ensure sales proposals are completed according to IT strategies, proposal specifications and quality standards
- 1-3 years experience developing and managing IT documentation, previous IT/Sales experience preferred

Cebu Vacancy

Network Engineer
- entails handling various network installation, design and troubleshooting tasks as required
- CCNP certification required. CCDA, CCDP or higher certifications, MS certifications a plus
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- Graduate of any business course, preferably accounting or industrial engineering
- With at least a two (2) year productive experience in IT Selling and knowledgeable of Enterprise Resource Planning Solutions
- Male or Female, single and between 23- 35 years old
- Exposure in selling any of the following systems is an advantage:
  - Manufacturing Systems
  - Financial Accounting Systems
- Has excellent written and verbal communication skills
- Must have the ability to deal with people of all levels
- Must be willing to work long hours

HR MANAGER

- Female, preferably single 25- 35 years old
- Candidate must possess at least a Post Graduate Diploma / Master's Degree in Human Resource Management or equivalent. With at least 5 year(s) of managerial working experience in Human Resources
- Well versed in the different facets of HR (Recruitment, Training, Organizational Dev't, Labor Laws, Employee Relations, Corporate Communications, Compensation and Benefits)
- Strong leadership, project management, organizational, and strategic thinking skills
- With excellent interpersonal skills
- Must be detail-oriented and patient. Must be willing to work long hours.
- Excellent in oral and written communications.
- Computer Literate

ACCOUNTING MANAGER

- Candidate must be a CPA
- With at least 2 years of managerial working experience.
- Excellent oral and written communication skills.
- Must be detail-oriented and patient. Must be willing to work under pressure.
- Computer literate. Exposure in an ERP solutions implementation is an advantage.

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Makati Ave. Cor Gil Puyat, Makati City
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INDUSTRIAL MECHANICS
INDUSTRIAL CERTIFIED WELDERS

QUALIFICATIONS:
- Candidate must have 5 years experience in Coconut Oil Mill maintaining Anderson Expeller; must be 25-35 years of age; at least a graduate of vocational course or equivalent related course;
- For Industrial Mechanic, secondary skills in welding/machining is an advantage;

Qualified and interested applicants are required to submit an application letter, resumé and other credentials to:

MR. ERICO VILLAS (HRD)
NEW LEYTE EDIBLE OILS MFG., CORP.
Brgy. San Roque, Tanauan, Leyte 6502
(053) 3225340 Local 120
e-mail: nleo-hrd@bayandsl.com

Linde

COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATION TECHNICIANS
- Male
- 23 to 35 years old
- Minimum of 3 yrs. experience in Commercial Refrigeration
- Must be Refrigeration course graduate.
- Should have knowledge in trouble shooting, control circuits, electronic devices, over hauling machines, repair and maintenance.
- Driving license is an advantage.

CADET ENGINEERS
- Male
- 21 years old
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CADD OPERATORS
- Male/Female
- 23 to 30 years old
- Interior Design/Architecture Graduate

WELDERS
- Male
- 23 to 35 years old
- Welding Technology Graduate
- With experience in electric and gas welding

Send your resume w/ recent 2x2 ID picture or apply in person to:

HRD Department
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5th RCC Centre, 104 Shaw Blvd Pasig City
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Please send your resumé together with 2x2 colored picture to:
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- Female, 25-35 yrs old, College Grad.
- With Secretarial skills, pref. w/ exp.
- Good command of English
- Pleasing personality, versatile

COMPUTER TECHNICIAN
- Male, 21-35 yrs old, w/ typing skills, graduate of any computer course
- Knowledge in Networking
- Basic PC Trouble Shooting & Repair
- Window-based applications
- Programming an advantage

COMPANY DRIVER
- Male, 25-35 years old, with experience
- At least High School graduate
- Familiar w/ Metro Manila area
- In good health
- With NBI or Police Clearance

Send Resumé & Picture to:
AROMIN & SY + ASSOCIATES
P.O. Box 2078
Makati Central Post Office
1260 Makati City
email: arominsy@info.com.ph

TouchStar Software

TouchStar Software Corporation, a privately held software developer of software based phone systems is currently hiring for several positions in our Manila office. We are looking for individuals that have great communication skills, strong work ethics, and are passionate about helping customers. If you are looking for a career and not another Job then this is the company for you!

We offer competitive salaries (based on experience and abilities) as well as allowances and other benefits commencing with experience and qualifications.

Technical Support Center Manger

This person will be responsible for the Support Centers Daily operations
- Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, preferably ECE/EE/CoE/MIS/CS; or has strong IT operations experience
- Must have 3 - 5 years experience in IT or Operations (preferably in Call Centers)
- Applicants must have strong English communication skills
- Must be able to manage a team of technicians in trouble shooting and problem analysis tactics to understand and resolve software and database related customer issues on multiple shifts (night and day, 24/7)
- A background in telephony & telecommunications or call center IP, VOIP solutions are a big plus for this position
- Light programming skills in VB, SQL and general database design are a plus

Technical Support Database Engineer

Responsible for helping Customers worldwide with database maintenance, report generation, and SQL Database related issues.
- Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, preferably ECE/EE/CoE/MIS/CS; or strong IT experience
- Must be experienced in SQL 2000 databases (3 - 5 years)
- Must be willing to work night shifts or as needed to accommodate the customers needs
- Experience with Crystal report generation is a plus

Technical Support Engineer

Responsible for helping Customers worldwide with software, networking, and other IT related issues.
- Bachelor's Degree in Engineering, preferably ECE/EE/CoE/MIS/CS; or strong IT experience
- 1 – 3 years of call center or call center IT experience is preferred
- Willing to work the night shifts or a variable shift based on the customers needs
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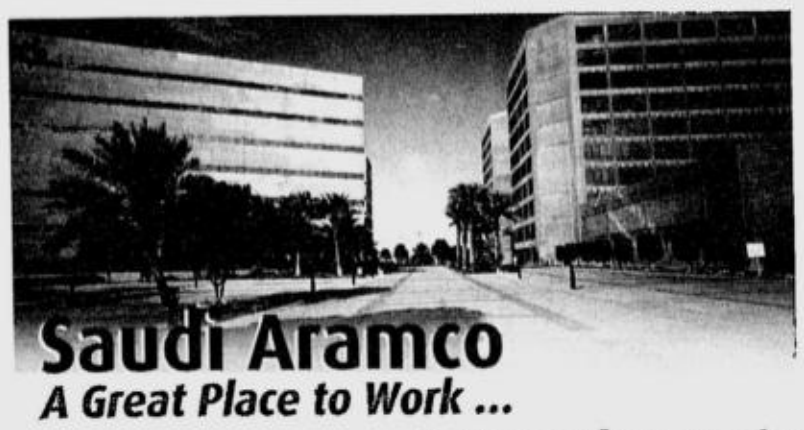

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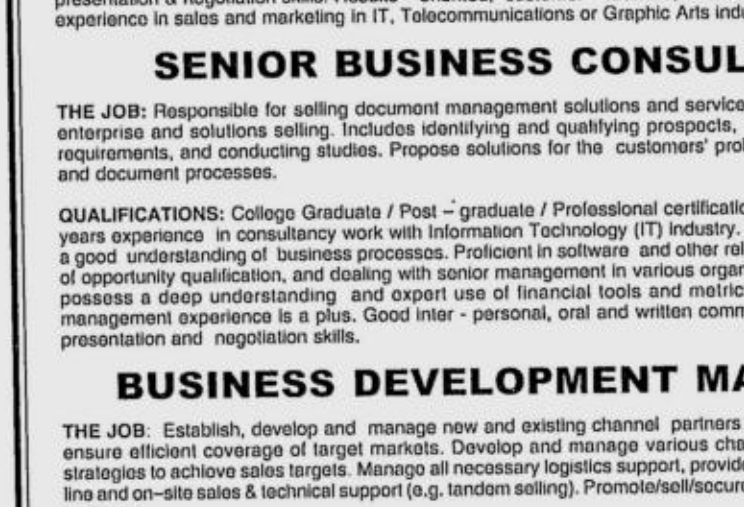

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Editor Raul O. Marcelo
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Sunday PEOPLE at WORK

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What questions should everyone ask themselves at work?

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

DEAR WW: I FEEL LIKE I'VE been running in place at work. Other people get promoted, but I just sit in the same job. Is there something that I can do to get ahead at work?

Stuck

Town Clerk Walk Weber announced the reason that elections in Monticello, WI didn't take place as scheduled last year, "We forgot." According to Weber, it wasn't a big deal because none of the incumbents would have been challenged anyway.

Unfortunately, many of us are like Mr. Weber because we go unchallenged at work each day. If you want to get ahead, you need to ask yourself hard questions on a regular basis. I've included some to get you started, below. For more, check out Blanchard and Homan's book "Leverage Your Best and Ditch The Rest" (Morrow, 2004)

How do others see me? We all think we know how others see us at work. Emphasis on the word "think." At best, most of us are operating off old information. At worst, we can be living in a total fantasy world of how we'd like other people to see us. So it's important to check in with your key stakeholders on a regular basis and to be totally open to what they have to say. Especially the stuff that you disagree with or makes you uncomfortable—often that is the most important for you to acknowledge and act on.

How do I see myself? I don't want to come across as arrogant or insulting. But most of the business people that I've met are not the most self-aware group of people you'll ever run across. Insight about values, motivations and other "internal" considerations can often be summed up in business people as little to none. Take the time to really understand who you are and where you are coming from and you'll really stand out as a leader.

How do I want to be seen? This question moves the conversation from who you are to who you want to be. Start by asking: what do you wish was true about you? And what do other people wish that were true about you? Next ask yourself about where you disappoint others or about your major inconsistencies and how they can get in your way. My overall optimism is probably showing through, I do believe that people can change, but only if they have the desire and correct feedback.

What are my gifts? I believe that every person has a unique contribution to make. Unfortunately, it's not always apparent to us. That's why it's helpful to get input from others so you can understand your key strengths.

How can I improve? This is where the rubber meets the road. Ask yourself the following questions: When am I the most effective? What strategies should I be using? What is the risk of doing things differently? What kind of help and support do I need?

Use these strategies to challenge yourself and you'll stay in office as long as you want to.

(Mr. Rosner, an internationally syndicated columnist, author and speaker, is based in Seattle, Washington, USA. E-mail him at bob@workingwounded.com.)

Workers' views on corporate social responsibility

By Mitchie Monroy Arcaina
Contributor

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

TODAY, SOCIETY IS DEmanding more. Because of the throbbing political and economic crises going on in Third World nations such as ours, corporations not only look at profit margins but also put together significant contributions to help the underprivileged. Such involvement is driven by a corporate conscience and expectations of corporate gain like increased employee morale, a good reputation, and customer loyalty.

The World Business Council for Sustainable Development has amassed definitions of corporate social responsibility or CSR in their publications. One anonymous source from our country concisely puts it, "CSR is about business giving back."

CSR survey

Since a number of corporations in the country have CSR projects, People at Work did a survey on Filipino workers' view on corporate social responsibility, their reaction to these efforts, and the impact of CSR projects on how they favor organizations.

The bulk of the 47 readers who answered the survey are from the private sector (91 percent); the remaining 9 percent are from the public sector. Of the 47 who responded, 21 percent are males while 79 percent are females. Their ages range from 21 to 67 years old, and the average tenure is over five and a half years.

Although the respondents come from different industries, many are in the human resource department. Forty-two percent of the respondents perform HR responsibilities such as recruitment, training, and organizational development. They are likely more aware of any ongoing company-wide CSR projects. Employees from accounting, marketing, sales, and customer service groups comprised the remaining 58 percent.

Different views

Albeit the respondents are not too varied, CSR is not quite clear-cut to them. Sixty-three percent said that CSR is about community development and civic involvement, while others said it is about outreach programs (11 percent), scholarship endowments (10 percent), foundations (6 percent) and medical missions (4 percent). The fact that community development has drawn a lot of votes from readers can be attributed to the term itself, which may relate to anything from waste management and environmentalism, recreation projects and sponsorships, advance research funding, and housing development aids.

When asked if their organizations run such projects, 16 percent of them said their companies do it at least more than four times a year, 9 percent said twice, 6 percent said once and 4 percent said once and only in line with a very special occasion. About 19 percent reported that their companies do not have CSR projects at all.

However, when respondents were asked whether they want to immerse them

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'I am afraid to lead people!'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I WORK IN A UTILITY company. Recently, my boss called me saying I have leadership potential. He says that I should prepare myself to become a supervisor in six months time. I am only 25 years old and the people who will report to me are older. I am afraid to lead people. Even when I was in college, I would be diligent, get good grades but always avoid getting drafted to leadership positions. I also know accepting the position is the only way for me to get more pay. The additional income will help since my wife and I have to start to prepare for the future of our first baby. What are the key things I need to know to be an effective leader? Please advice.

Fearful Future Leader

Actually, fear is good because it could provide the catalyst to propel you to be a good leader. From your letter, I can sense that your fear is around leading people who are older than you. Yes, at the beginning, mutual adjustment may be required. It may be difficult but not impossible.

The first thing you have to recognize is the shift in role when one assumes a leadership position. As a specialist or technical person, you are basically a direct contributor. Focus and get your own work done with excellence—it is a simple formula for technical success. Now when you get to be a supervisor, you move to a position where you produce results by focusing on the 20 percent that delivers you 80 percent of the results. A key factor is the ability to get results through people.

Leadership defined

Let me share with you my favorite definition of leadership coming from a leadership philosopher, Peter Kaustembaum. The definition embodies the core elements of leadership. He states, "A leader is a person who has decided to lead and is truly effective in achieving worthy results in any field; no matter what the obstacles; with unfailing regard for human beings and with an unimpeachable character and integrity."

The first element is when a person decides to lead. In making that decision, he is willing to use mind, heart and most specially, the will to lead. Leadership assumes responsibility and accountability for tasks. The decision to lead is critical especially in difficult moments and challenging situations where the resolve to lead is tested.

The second element involves effectiveness in achieving worthy results. A leader develops a vision, something better than the status quo. She inspires self and people around her, whether subordinates, peers or superiors to desire to work towards the desired results.

Other elements

The third element refers to being able to achieve worthy results in any field. I think leadership cannot be put in neat cabinet drawers (where a person says I lead at work but will not lead at home) but tends to imbue all of a person's roles and activities with the brand of achievement and success. A true leader is effective at work, at home or in whatever endeavor that he is engaged in.

The fourth element is about heroic quality, where a person persists and overcomes obstacles. Obstacles become the springboard for getting worthy results. A leader has to become aware of her strengths and limitations. She builds on strengths and works on limitations. Leadership is not easy, but I believe the full potential of a human person can only be achieved if one chooses to lead. Leadership is not a position; it is a role that one chooses to assume.

The fifth element is about an unfailing regard for human beings. A key trait of a successful leader is authenticity. He is a person, who is confident of his abilities and has genuine respect and caring for every human being. One participant in my workshop insightfully suggested that the key reason we have to respect the dignity of man is because of "his origin and his ultimate destination." He was talking of the Christian perspective where every person is created in the image and likeness of God and is designed so that his ultimate destination is heaven. There are many leaders who fail because they play games and do not tell the truth and

I AM'/P.9 ★★★

An astonishing teacher

By Teresa R. Tunay

SEMINAR SPEAKERS ARE AMONG THE HOTTEST "TEACHers" in t he work world today. People pay thousands of pesos to hear what they have to say, to watch their presentations, to learn from them. But what makes one seminar speaker a greater teacher than another?

Many say it's the initials tailing the speaker's name—the MAs, the Ph.Ds, etc.—the more degrees, the more impressive he becomes. Many are also impressed by an impeccable track record that shows how popular he is as a speaker. Most participants in these seminars would say, too, that it's the techniques and methods that the speaker imparts, which make him a teacher worth the pupil's money.

All those things can enable a seminar speaker to teach with authority, yes, but only when they are backed by real-life experience, so to speak. Audiences sense when a speaker is being merely bookish, and when he is teaching with real authority. A speaker cannot but persuade when his knowledge has been ripened into wisdom by experience. In other words, the speaker talks—but first walks his talks; he preaches, but first practices what he preaches. Whatever he learns he tests first in life's laboratory, and then enriches others' lives with his findings. When this happens he ceases to be just a speaker, and starts to be a teacher. His life and lifestyle—not just his degrees, skills, records and references—is the solid embodiment of the learning he imparts with authority.

But how can you tell when you are meeting the speaker for the first time? From his guts he readily answers any question related to his topic, no matter how it is turned around or where it leads to. And his answers never fail to satisfy while leaving you hungry for more. An astonishing teacher—just like Jesus. (*E-mail the author at* teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com)

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WORKING SOUL

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Gospel: Mark 1: 21-28

The people were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one having authority and not as the scribes.

Work and teach

By Bishop Precioso D. Cantillas, SDB, DD

IF WE TRY TO RECALL THE PEOPLE WHO HAVE EXERcised some kind of authority over us—those, who influence our way of thinking, of deciding, or of planning our life and career—we'll see perhaps that they are mostly those who are successful in their work or profession, those who have distinguished position, power and prestige, or those with great wealth and fame; very, very seldom would they be those who are simple ordinary workers like Jesus of Nazareth, a son of a carpenter who could teach others "with authority."

I, for one, could say that it was from my father who did not even earn a college degree that I learned to work hard on various kinds of jobs, like fishing, planting fruit trees and working on the farm, tending livestock, carpentry and others. My father's effort to provide a decent livelihood for a family of nine children taught me the important value of work as a means to supply for the needs of the family, and also the value of doing one's duty and having responsibility for others. By bringing me and my siblings with him regularly to Sunday Mass where he taught us to offer our work and sacrifices to God, our Creator and Savior, my father taught us that working is also a means of relating with God, and expressing to Him our being.

Everyone, therefore, even the simple ordinary worker, who works honestly and responsibly, believing in Jesus and imitating His examples, working and serving others with Jesus' mercy and compassion, can effectively transform the workplace and society into a "school" where everyone can learn the art of working and living in God's designs. (*E-mail the author at* mfvg@skyinet.net)

Workers' views on corporate social responsibility

From page 8★★★

selves in corporate social responsibilities, a majority (87 percent) said that they are either involved already or would want to volunteer for CSR projects. Thirteen percent were undecided on account of the unavailability of CSRs in their organizations.

Importance of CSR

Do jobseekers prefer companies that are socially responsible or have CSR projects? Jobseekers may perceive that socially responsible organizations that funnel money to aid the underprivileged are more stable and secure and that their workforce are better educated and less corrupt.

Seventy-seven percent of the respondents said they prefer companies that run CSR programs, 6 percent did not while 17 percent confessed that it does not matter whether their potential employers have these programs or not. No one indicated that CSR is unimportant. In fact, 91 percent believe that companies should have their CSR projects in place to meet critical humanitarian needs (83 percent) and improve corporate reputation (11 percent).

Some societal demands are difficult to fulfill. Deciding which issue to address at how much cost is not an easy proposition to resolve for business leaders. Yet some companies exert much effort in being socially responsible.

Organizations may benefit from adopting CSR projects in their corporate practices as Filipino workers value organizations that have a positive impact on their neighboring communities and society at large. Such value for corporate social responsibilities leaves the corporations with increasing pressure to play a role in social issues. In the long run, a corporation's commitment to behave responsibly is germane to economic development and the improvement of the quality of lives of its workers.

(Mr. Mitchie M. Arcaina is a graduate student in Industrial-Organizational Psychology at the Ateneo De Manila University and a telecommunications employee. For more inquiries about this study, please contact ateneocord@admu.edu.ph*).*

'I am afraid to lead people!'

From page 8★★★

therefore their people do not trust them.

The sixth element is about having unimpeachable character and integrity. For indeed, character and integrity are the armor that protect the leader. Character is the combination of qualities that distinguishes a person in terms of moral strength, reputation and disposition. This quality becomes doubly important when we consider what Pope Benedict says on the tendency of the modern age toward relativism. Everything is all shades of gray, where one can no longer sure of what is true and right. The leader delivers on promises' you can count on his word.

There is so much to say about leadership. But I am sure if you start to live Kaus-tembaum's definition, you would begin to journey towards effective leadership.

(Ms Puangco is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, a training and consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human resource systems, leadership and enterprise training. Email feedback to advice@ ancillaedc.com.ph *or call tel. no. 8922895/96/98.)*

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Is office politics unavoidable?

CAN ONE BE SUCCESSFUL IN his or her career without being involved in office politics? Can one avoid office politics?

I am just doing my job the best I can. I'm continuously improving myself to enhance my value to the bank where I work and, at the same time, to earn recognition and be rewarded with promotion. I had set my heart on the position of my boss who is due to retire. I've always been getting outstanding or superior ratings in performance appraisals since I started working in our bank 15 years ago.

Thus, I was shocked to read just last week the memo of our president announcing the retirement of my boss and the promotion of my co-supervisor to department head. I honestly believe, and others agree with me, that my co-supervisor did not deserve the promotion for at least two reasons: he is always late in coming to work and he is not consistent in meeting targets. His edge over me is that he is a favorite of our former department head and our group head. He often flatters them and tells them unfavorable stories about employees. He is a "Yes, boss" person and an ego massager of our boss and group head.

Although I'm tempted to resign over this matter out of disgust, I can not do so because at age 48, I'm not sure if I can still find a good job in another bank like the one I'm holding now. I cannot pretend everything is okay with me, especially since I'm now reporting to this ex-colleague of mine whose competence I question and whose character I don't respect. Should I ask for a transfer to another department or assignment to another branch? But this will affect my career path since I want to stay in the head office and eventually become an officer.

What shall I do? Please help me.

Mr. Disgusted

You have correctly described your perceptions and feelings about your situation and about the person who is now your boss. If you nurture these thoughts and feelings about your new boss, or look for situations to validate them, you will allow them to control your behavior and this will affect your performance, and therefore, your career.

Many people who can't explain the promotion of some other people are quick to attribute it to office politics, i.e., one people who are favored by the "powers-that-be" or decision-makers have an edge over others. They are quick to attribute to office politics the promotion of people whose competence they doubt, or who are on a fast track.

Shift mindset

You write that you are not willing to resign from your bank and have doubts about the wisdom of getting a transfer to another department or be assigned to a branch because this will sidetrack you from your career goal. Knowing your options and the consequence of each one, which you don't want to risk, I suggest that you exert efforts to change your view of the situation and your paradigm of your boss. If you shift your mindset that it was your new boss' close relationship with your former boss and with your Group Head that got him his promotion, and that he earned his promotion thru achievements that you may not be aware of, you will change your attitude towards him.

To change your mindset, be open to new information from reliable sources. I suggest you go directly to the group head and ask for the reasons behind the promotion of your peer because you had thought you were more qualified than he, but that you want to be proven wrong. Say something like this: "I came to see you, Sir, because I want to keep my mind at rest by getting the facts straight from you. May I know the basis for the promotion of (colleague's name) to department head? I thought I was more qualified to assume the position since I have been getting outstanding or very good ratings in my performance appraisal ever since I joined our bank. Perhaps there are things that he has done that I may not be aware of. I simply want to be clarified." Then listen to the explanation. You can also ask the retiring department head for the same clarification.

Open mind

I hope they will be open to you and not take your desire for clarification against you. Nothing feeds rumors and gossips more than lack of information. Bosses who fully explain their decisions regarding career moves and the basis for making them, immunize their culture against accusations of office politics and favoritism, whether real or perceived. The grapevine is part of organizational life. It's normal for people to want to exchange "inside information" and to want others to feel that they are "in the know." But the grapevine must be fed with correct information.

You may not agree with the group head's reasons for your peer's promotion but accept them graciously. After all, it's his judgment and evaluation that matters, not yours. Also, you asked to be clarified, and he gave it to you. Put matters at rest and accept his decision with humility. Then concentrate on your habits of hard work and continuous improvement.

But let me tell you also that it is not enough to do outstanding work. You must also be visible as the person behind the outstanding work. Your new boss, who had been your peer, is the one who will evaluate your tasks and appraise your performance. He is the one who will recommend your promotion to the group head, give you assignments that will enhance your professional growth and make you visible, and put you in the right career path. Cooperate with him; be a team player and acknowledge him as the leader of your team.

No. 1 customer

To establish a positive and professional relationship with him can be one of your enabling objectives to achieve your career goal. He is, after all, your number one customer; his standards are the criteria by which he evaluates your work. You don't need to do what you perceived him to have done to get his promotion. These were your perceptions; you are not privy to the "big picture." Carrying a grudge against your new boss will work against you for this will affect your relationship with him and your performance, such that you don't want him to succeed or you want him to fail.

Suppress the urge to say things critical of and about your boss. What you say are likely to surface and get to the knowledge of your boss no matter how strictly in confidence you've handled it. Neither should you entertain criticism about, or listen to other people talk, against your boss. You are likely to be drawn into the intrigue and gossip mill, and be quoted as saying things you may not have said. When you hear others say critical things about your boss, tell them to tell these directly to him so he can benefit from their feedback. Listening to negative talk on your part will only add fuel to the fire. If they are not willing to tell your boss directly, then express regret that you can't help them. You are also role modeling for them what professionalism and being a Christian mean.

Above all, be open to the great possibility that your new boss will change his ways. We are not "still pictures" or "frozen food." We are capable of changing, improving and growing, and becoming better persons when greater responsibilities are thrust to us. God bless you.

(Ms Santamaria has a Ph.D in psychology and is a practicing psychologist, counselor, management consultant, executive coach and mentor. Send feedback to carsys@careersystems.com.ph.*)*

Flexitime work arrangements

PEOPLE AT WORK AND THE Ateneo Center for Organization Research and Development (CORD) partner to listen to the hearbeats of working people through this People at Work Pulse. The results of this poll will be published next month.

To quicken your response rates, Philippine Daily Inquirer and Ateneo CORD will be giving gift packages to two respondents to be drawn from those who replied for the month. Winners from last month's survey are: **Maria Leticia Delos Reyes** and **Cristina Dam**. (Please contact Philippine Daily Inquirer at 897-8808 local 554 to claim your prizes).

PEOPLE AT WORK Pulse

1. Do you have flexitime work arrangement in your organization?
   a. Yes (proceed to question No. 2)
   b. No (proceed to question No. 5)
   c. I do not know.

2. Are you part of the flexitime program?
   a.Yes
   b. No, but I am thinking of joining.
   c. No, I don't want to join.

3. What kind of flexitime arrangement do you have?
   a. Flexible starting and ending time of work but fixed number of hours per day
   b. Flexible number of daily hours per day but fixed number of hours per week
   c. Others

4. To whom do you discuss your flexitime schedule with?
   a. Direct supervisor
   b. Human Resources
   c. None

5. What is the impact of a flexitime program? (Check as many as you can)
   a. Decreased tardiness/absenteeism
   b. Avoid rush hour/traffic when coming to work
   c. Larger blocks of employee leisure/family time
   d. Better scheduling of the workforce to coincide with changing workload
   e. Less interaction with the coworkers
   f. Harder to coordinate with co-workers
   g. Perception of less control over one's job
   h. Decreased employee stress
   i. Avoid coming to work when there is light workload
   j.Others: _____

6. Do you think your organizations should have/ continue to have a flexitime work arrangement?
   a. Yes
   b. No

Name: _____
Gender: _____ Age: ___ Status: _____
Nature of the Job: _____ Position: _____
Company name: _____
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- Has good command of both written & spoken language
- Proficient in Windows Application

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Choose your favorite comic strip among the current titles we have now: **a.**Ragnarok **b.**Moomoo hunters **c.**Garfield **d.**Mothergoose and Grimm **e.**Pugad Baboy **f.**Inday Wanda **g.**Zits **h.**Full House

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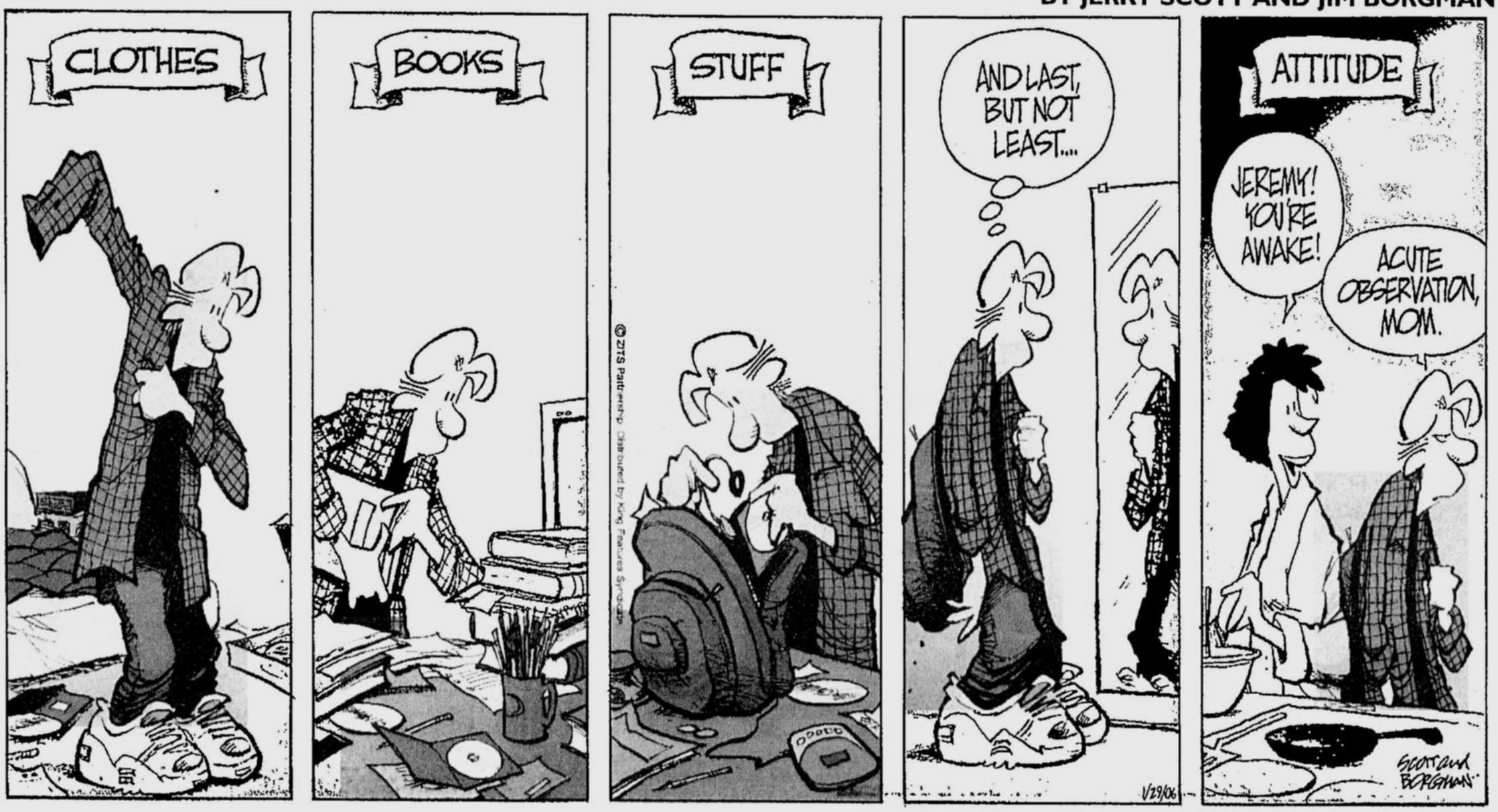
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS

ZITS

BY JERRY SCOTT AND JIM BORGMAN



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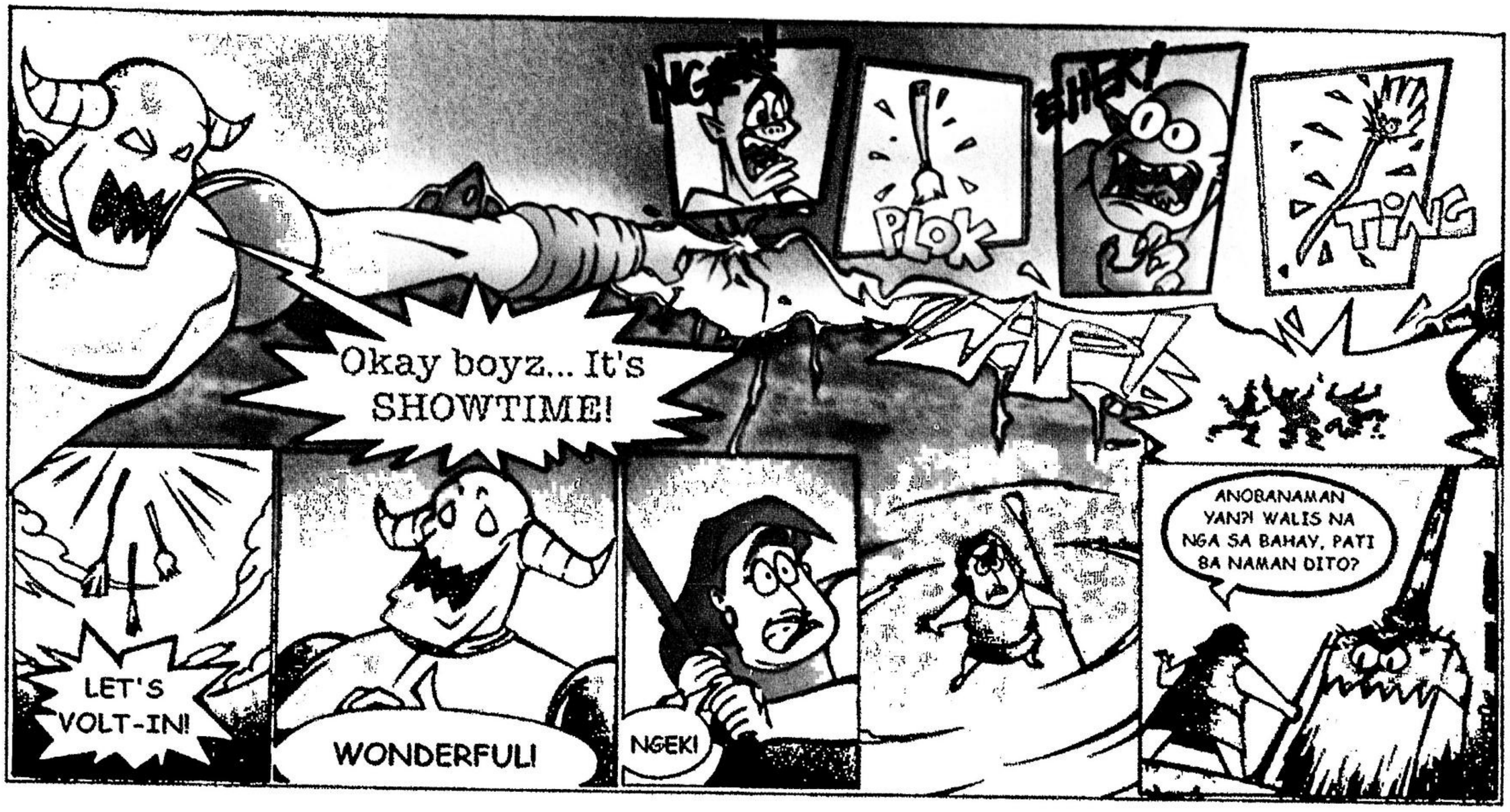
BY BLOG CALIGUIA



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January 29, 2006
sunday INQUIRER magazine
GET TO KNOW SOME REAL PEOPLE

The doctor is out for good as Isa Lorenzo plays with SLR and HDTV

by Eric S. Caruncho
photographed by Raffy Lerma

After nine years of medical studies, she decided to follow her heart. Today, as her portraits of admirable Filipinas go on exhibit at the CCP, the woman behind the prestigious Silver Lens gallery talks about her worthy subjects—and how photography has become her religion of sorts

ISA Lorenzo must have had the shortest career in medicine ever.

"The day I passed the board was the day I retired," says the 31-year-old photographer.

As might be expected, her decision not to pursue a career in medicine, after nine years of pre-med, med proper and internship—at the Universtiy of the Philippines-Philippine General Hospital no less—caused people to doubt her sanity and elicited much hand-wringing all around.

You're throwing your life away! exclaimed her family. *Sayang ang* slot *mo!* (You're wasting your slot) exclaimed her classmates, many of whom would have killed for a choice residency position.

The reaction was understandable, considering that Lorenzo didn't have a clue as to what she wanted to do, other than that medicine wasn't it.

"The funny thing was, being a doctor was something I dreamed about," Lorenzo—whose mother is a physician—recalls. "I wanted to become a cardiologist, a master of the heart."

But somewhere along the way, the heart had gone out of it.

Go all the way

In fact, her father, former Ateneo basketball legend and agribusiness czar Luis "Moro" Lorenzo, had told her, shortly before he died: "I know you're not happy. Go and find out what it is you want to do. But when you do, make sure you do it seriously and go all the way."

Lorenzo took her father's advice.

With only a vague idea of doing something "creative," Lorenzo started knocking around in media. She worked briefly for television, producing shows for "Probe." Then she worked for "People Asia" magazine as a writer.

"And then I found photography," she says. "I realized that the only time I was really interested was when there was going to be a shoot."

Her father might have had something to do with it. "Moro" had been a keen amateur photographer, and as a child Lorenzo had spent hours with him in his darkroom, watching images emerge from the play of light and shadow.

In any case, it was off to New York to further explore this new world.

"I met a guy from Tanauan, Batangas named Fernando Afable, who works for the International Center for Photography (ICP), and he sort of took me under his wing and talked me into going to school there."

Founded by the legendary photojournalist Cornell Capa in the 1940s,

To page 6

The Running Banker, p.3 | The Passionate Magazine Reader A5 | The Resurrected '80s Idol, p.8 JOJO

Love Notes

Finally learning to let go

I still cannot accept that the guy I loved deeply could do this to me. I've accepted the fact that it's over between us, but I'm having a hard time letting go

Dear Joe,

I'm Jamie, and this letter is long overdue because this happened five months ago. I met Jon in September when we were both new hires for our company. We kept seeing each other, and I got attracted to him. After a month, I found out that he liked me, too. I started avoiding him, but then we had a chance to talk intimately during our Christmas party and, unexpectedly, we kissed.

Then I got confused. Why did I let that happen? What about my boyfriend? To keep things from getting worse, I broke up with my boyfriend and told Jon that we should just be friends. Despite my decision, he didn't stop pursuing me.

I decided to give him a chance. Every moment with him was bliss. Everything seemed to be going smoothly until someone came between us.

Jon and Sarah had something going long before I came along. But they didn't have the chance to continue things because Sarah unexplainably drifted away until they lost touch. Now that our story had started, Sarah suddenly came back.

Jon told her that he already had a girlfriend, but Sarah persisted. She continued to act as his girlfriend, even introducing Jon to her family as her boyfriend. Jon felt trapped. He was also very open to me about what was happening so I felt confident that there was nothing to worry about.

Then suddenly, Jon broke up with me. He told me that he needed time to get out of the trap he was in. So I let him, hoping that he would soon come back to me. But he didn't. I soon found out that Jon and Sarah were back together.

I wasn't really surprised, but it hurt me so badly, Joe. To this day, I still cannot accept that the guy I loved deeply could do such a thing to me. I've accepted the fact that it's over between us, but I'm having a hard time letting go. What's wrong with me? How can I move on, Joe?

Sincerely,
Jamie

Jamie,

I have always said, time and again, that the hardest people to forget are the people we love. Only when we don't love them anymore can we truly move on and explore the possibility of finding love again in the arms of someone else.

You said you've accepted that it's over between you and Jon, but you still haven't accepted that the guy you have loved so much is in love with someone else. Deep in your heart, you're still wishing for his return. These thoughts keep you connected to Jon. Unless you are able to find a way to detach yourself from your wishful thoughts then it will be very difficult to move on.

Most of us live in the past even if it hurts because we would rather mourn over lost love than take the risk of loving again. We shut our eyes, ears and our hearts to people around us and to the hope of finding love again.

Jamie, we all have our own sad stories to tell. Others even have worst experiences with the people they have loved. But no matter how painful life and loving can be, God never fails to give us strength to bear it. He never fails to let the sun shine through even during the darkest and stormiest moments in our lives. He makes us fall, not to hurt us, but to teach us that we should never give up despite our failures. He makes us cry, not to make us miserable, but to make us realize how important love is. And most of all, he takes away a person from us, not because we don't deserve him but because he has someone better for us. That's how it always works, Jamie. Give yourself a chance. You just have to believe that there is still life after losing love and sometimes, that life will be better because it can be shared with someone who'd love you more than anything else in this world. Q

Noteworthy

Images with a purpose

Bobot Meru looking for an extra reason for his first exhibit of digitally enhanced photographs.

IT'S BEEN SOME 30 YEARS since lensman Crispino "Bobot" Meru first picked up a camera as a hobby, and was challenged to improve his craft when the guy at the photo shop counter said he didn't know how to shoot.

"In those days, there was no Internet," recalls Meru, "so research meant books, magazines, studying other photographers' works."

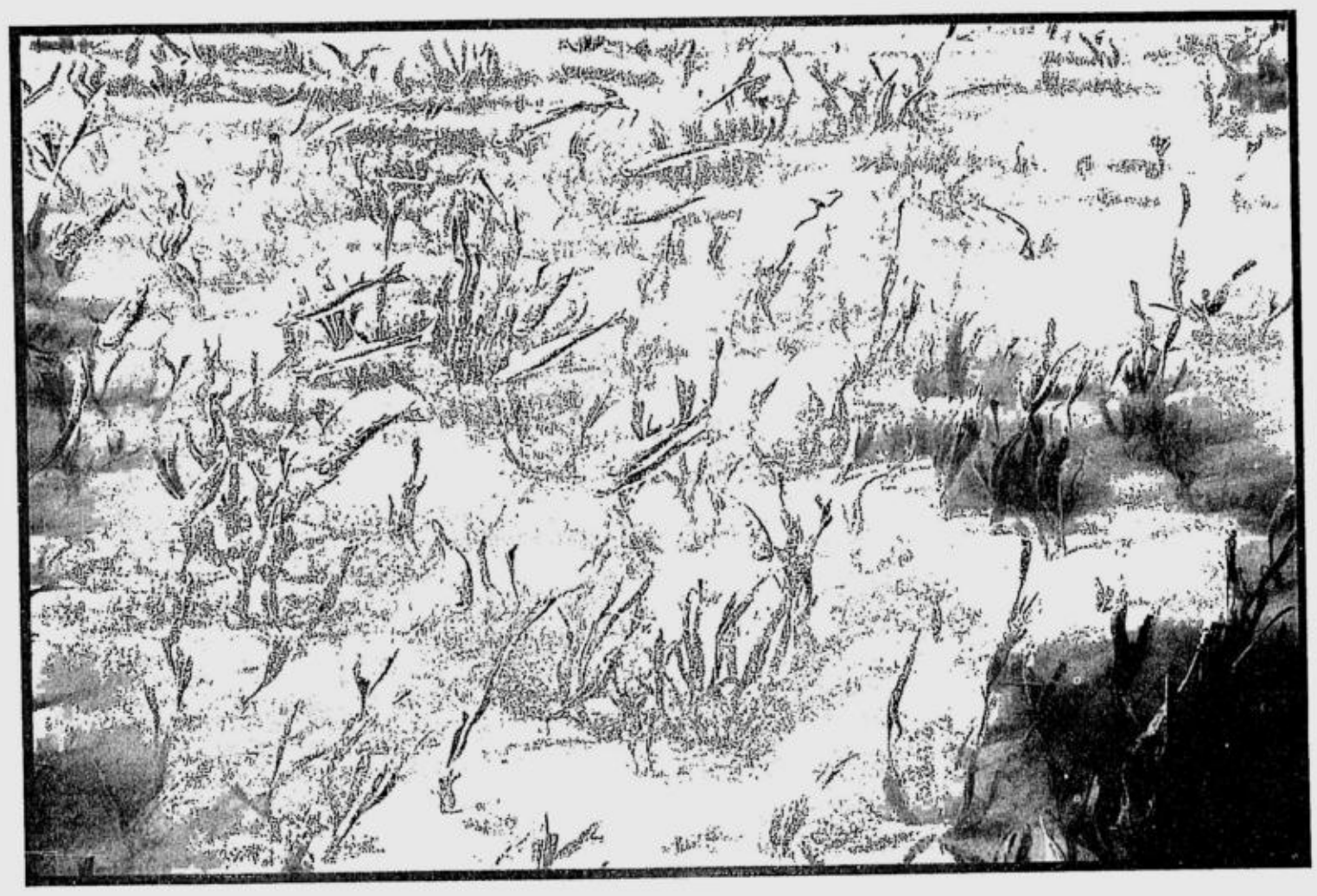
Meru, who originally studied to become a chemist, actually began his career taking medical photos for the University of the East-Ramon Magsaysay Medical Center. With his eye for detail, he was soon shooting lifestyle photos for the now-defunct Manila Chronicle, tackling everything from interiors to landscapes. After doing work for several glossies, he discovered digital photography and began fiddling with Photoshop in 1997 to create some truly ingenious enhanced images.

"Enhancement is different from manipulation," Meru stresses, especially to critics who consider digital photography less of an art form than film. "The difference between an art director and a photographer using Photoshop is, the art director looks at an image as an artwork, and starts from scratch. With digital art, you have to start from a good photograph. The computer today is yesterday's dark room."

Meru has been planning an exhibit of his digitally enhanced images for years, with help from Fuji, and had been looking for the right motivation—until recently. A friend and childhood schoolmate from San Beda, where Meru went to high school, was diagnosed with kidney illness, and with no family left, was in need of support. Together with some schoolmates, Meru put together and is finally opening "Rebomtubo" (a play on his name), an exhibit of some 50 images shot over the years, at the Shangri-La Mall.

A large chunk of proceeds from sales will go to his schoolmate's medical expenses. "Now I know why my other plans for exhibits never pushed through," Meru says. "They never had a purpose." The show was originally scheduled for October, to mark his friend's birthday, but instead it will open on Meru's 50th birthday, Jan. 31. "This is the best birthday gift I can give myself—to help prove that God makes things happen for a reason." **ABH**

"Rebomtubo" runs until Feb. 5



Starting from a good photograph (clockwise from bottom left): Club Noah Cabanas, Fish Seagrass and Noah Cabanas

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To Lemuria

Return, my love emissaries
Reason in her court no further
Gather on the shore in darkness
Consume our food gifts for her.

Our healthy auras are bright
Drum the drums with extreme desire
Dance away the frigid of night.

Let us drink toasts to you and me
We are born playful and care-less
To a moveable warm country
Thus in time we are, Sea Gypsies.

Our domain's water, theirs the land
In truth we share but one purpose
If they evict us from the sand
Again the sea shall see us cross

I've heard from the bird of omen
There's brotherhood beyond the sea
We can join men and women
Living the ancient mystery.

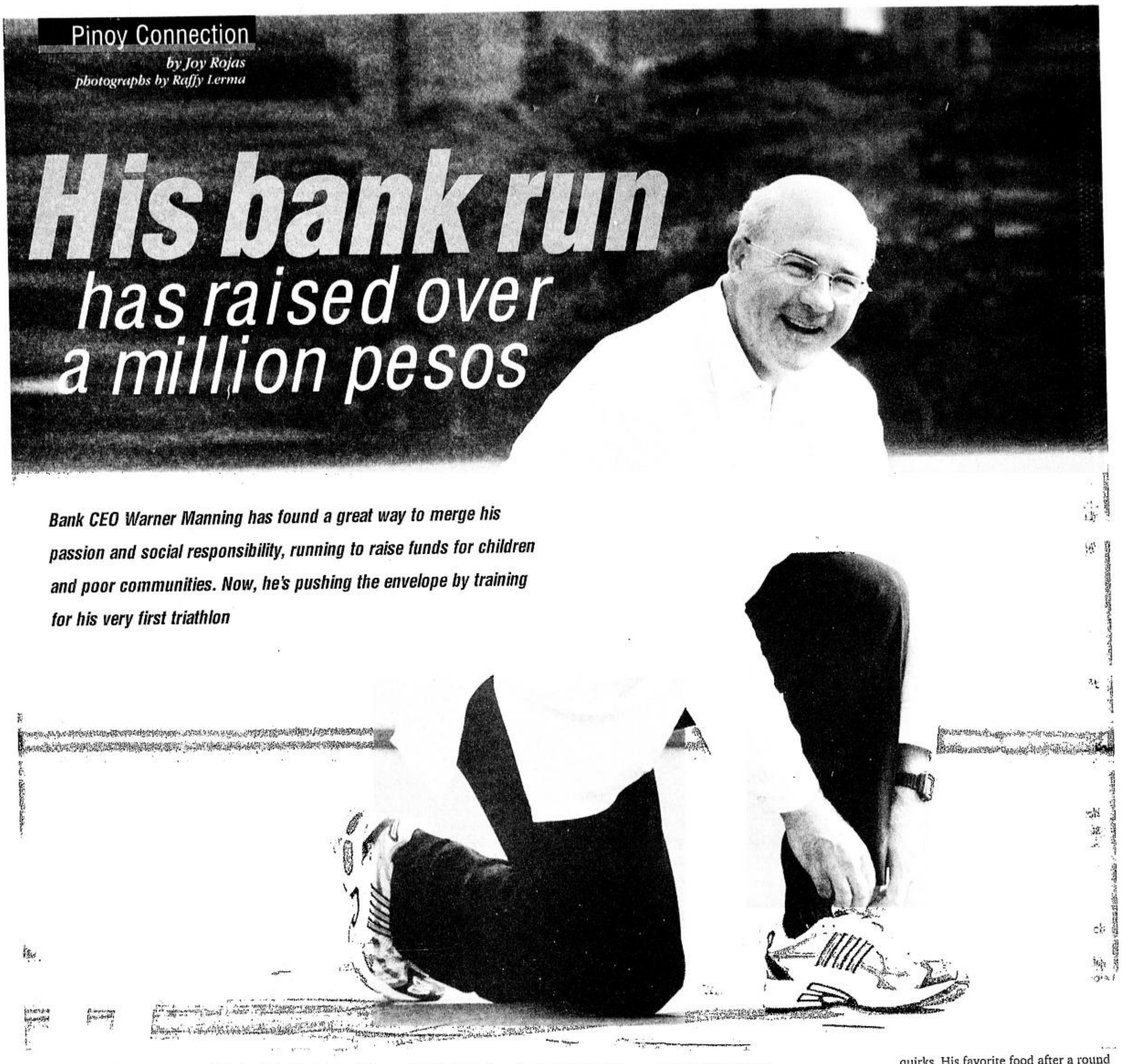
You who stay to hope still for change
Sometimes look in our direction
Tomorrow shall call us legend
We the clue to aspiration.

Jun Cañizares

Pinoy Connection

by Joy Rojas
photographs by Raffy Lerma

His bank run has raised over a million pesos



Bank CEO Warner Manning has found a great way to merge his passion and social responsibility, running to raise funds for children and poor communities. Now, he's pushing the envelope by training for his very first triathlon

E may be a veteran of the banking industry, but at 53, Warner Manning, Chief Executive Officer of Hong Kong and Shanghai Banking Corporation (HSBC) Philippines, is a beginner by triathlon standards, especially next to the likes of Alaska Milk president Fred Uytengsu, ABS-CBN Publishing president Ernie Lopez, Mancondray's Jay Jay Ocampo and Ayala Corporation's Nona Torres, who have all competed in the three-sport event before.

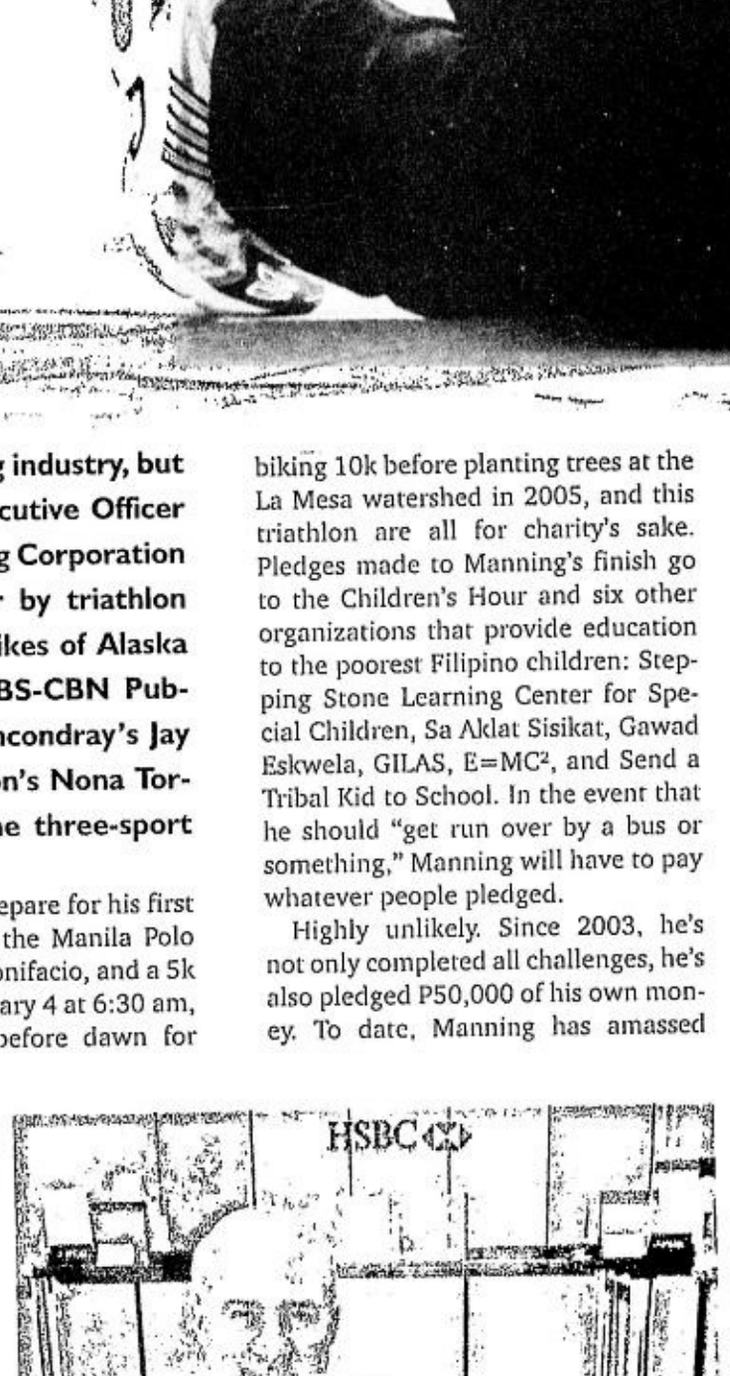
But don't count him out just yet. To prepare for his first ever triathlon (that's a 750m swim at the Manila Polo Club pool, a 20k bike ride around Fort Bonifacio, and a 5k run around the Polo Club field) on February 4 at 6:30 am, Manning trained scientifically, rising before dawn for workouts that last up to two hours. International coach Ria Mackay is helping him streamline his swimming technique to an ideal three-strokes-and-one-breath rhythm. "I never dreamed swimming required so much concentration," says Manning, who will also be joined by Ayala Land's Fernando Zobel, JL de Leon Investments' Jon Jon Rufino and Unilab's Joey Torres, among others.

Iron will

Thursdays are designated bike days. Manning, who does 5k loops with other triathletes around the South Forbes subdivision, gets by on a mountain bike chosen by Lopez and a triathlon book recommended by Uytengsu. Running appears to be his strongest suit, even as doctors declared he would never take another step again as a result of a bad back injury from rugby. "I just told them I think I could run," shrugs Manning, who ran cross-country in school. "And so I did."

It's more than an athlete's iron will, however, that motivates this CEO to complete such grueling challenges. Such feats as losing 23 lbs in 2003, running 15k from HSBC's first branch in Binondo to its latest at The Fort in 2004, running and biking 10k before planting trees at the La Mesa watershed in 2005, and this triathlon are all for charity's sake. Pledges made to Manning's finish go to the Children's Hour and six other organizations that provide education to the poorest Filipino children: Stepping Stone Learning Center for Special Children, Sa Aklat Sisikat, Gawad Eskwela, GILAS, E=MC², and Send a Tribal Kid to School. In the event that he should "get run over by a bus or something," Manning will have to pay whatever people pledged.

Highly unlikely. Since 2003, he's not only completed all challenges, he's also pledged P50,000 of his own money. To date, Manning has amassed over a million pesos.



Sacrifice

While a concert and fair at the Polo Club grounds from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. promise to generate significant funds as well, it's the challenges that answer Manning's need "to do something that's considered a sacrifice. There has to be some hard work involved. I mean, it's no fun getting up at 5:30 in the morning." Performing each challenge himself, meanwhile, encourages staff participation. If they're not volunteers in any of his events, they're assisting him in worthy causes, such as the rebuilding of homes for a typhoon-stricken community in Nueva Ecija, a partnership between HSBC and Gawad Kalinga.

"I'm not the sort of expatriate who, as soon as the weekend comes, sits by the pool with all his other expat friends and drinks beer," says this British national. "As a foreign entity, I'm a guest in this country and I feel that I have a civic responsibility to help the community where I'm in."

Born in South Africa and raised in the Caribbean, Manning was not the first in his family to find his way to the exotic Asian region. His grandfather worked for Shell Hong Kong-China, where Manning's dad was born. Manning, who earned his degree in business management in the UK in 1976, moved to Hong Kong in 1980 to join the accounting consultancy firm KPMG, where he did consultancy work for HSBC. Two years later, he was hired by HSBC "when it was still a small Asian regional bank. It's been great seeing it grow to the global bank that it is today."

White Filipino

Last assigned in HSBC Brunei, where he served as its CEO, the well-traveled Manning relocated to the Philippines in 2002 and appears pretty acclimatized by all accounts. In fact, his friends, most of whom are Pinoy, refer to him as a "white Filipino," seeing how he's adapted fairly well to the country's culture and its quirks. His favorite food after a round of Saturday morning golf is sizzling *bangus* and garlic rice.

And because he and wife Julie (who is heavily involved in the shelter of abandoned babies and abused girls through CRIBS) entertain a lot at home, the first HSBC CEO to do so, he's had to include a full-time chef in his employ. "We really enjoy it," says Manning, who is the father of a 24-year-old son and two daughters aged 27 and 21. "It's a great way to meet people and make friends."

With homes in Australia and Hong Kong, Manning, who expects "to carry on working in Asia in the foreseeable future," intends to stick with banking, "building the business and growing HSBC in the country in which we operate. That's my passion." For charity, he'd like to build more homes with Gawad Kalinga and introduce poor communities to micro-finance. And as far as sports goals go, the CEO would like to bring his golf handicap down from 20 to 15, and attempt an Olympic-distance triathlon (that is, double what he's doing on Feb. 4). "And that will be it," he declares.

What, no Ironman for Manning? "Ha, ha. People who do the Ironman are like women and pregnancy: Never again! But then they do it again. But no," he decides, "the Ironman is not possible."

Wanna bet?

A donation of only P100 to the Children's Hour, which entitles a guest to join the hourly raffle, will provide entrance to the Charity Fair and Charity Jam, which will follow the morning's sports challenge. Complimentary passes are available at the gate for HSBC Premier customers, HSBC credit card holders and Polo Club members. To enter for free, Manila Polo Club members need to show their ID card and HSBC customers must present their Premier card or HSBC credit card at the gate. For more information on Warner's Charity Challenge and the Charity Fair and Jam, please call tel. no. 830-5481.

by Pennie Azarcon-dela Cruz
photographs by Rudy Esperas

This painter of good fortune once tempted fate as a student activist

Known for paintings whose feng shui elements attract good luck and harmony, artist Lizanne Uychaco shows how art can combine aesthetics, political commitment and cultural heritage

PEOPLE who've known Lizanne Uychaco as a student council president and editor in chief of the school paper during her college days at St. Scholastica's College Manila might have wondered how a committed student activist could have evolved into a highly successful feng shui artist.

How does one reconcile those street protests grounded on harsh realities, with her paintings' ethereal promises of wealth and good fortune based on ancient Chinese symbols?

The more art-inclined might also ask how a corporate creature like this Philamlife senior vice president and chief marketing officer can mix creative expression with the crass concerns of the bottom line. Isn't her art compromised by her clients' utilitarian demands, and her creative spirit stifled by her regimented office hours?

"If you consider art as self-expression, then there's no compromise on my part," says Uychaco, 50. "I've always found every piece I make enjoyable. " As for clients' wishes, she only accepts those that coincide with her sense of aesthetics, she says. "The theme is not an issue because I only take commissioned works when they are similar to what I do and when there's no time pressure."

Private retreat

If anything, she adds, her corporate life has enhanced her art. "After a stressful day at work, I can't wait to get home and start painting," says Uychaco. "My art has become my private retreat, a way to unwind and relax. And since I can do with as little as five hours of sleep, I find that I can be very creative and productive after office hours."

The artist also takes exception to charges that she might have exchanged her youthful ideals for the glint of lucre. "Activists have always looked back on the lessons of history, and I believe in that, as well. In fact, I believe that people's heritage of beliefs—even in feng shui— is part of their cultural history. When I put those beliefs in my paintings, I am in a way also making sure that their heritage stays forever."

She shrugs off cynics who dismiss feng shui as quack science or spatial horoscope. "At worst, there's no harm done. At the same time, my paintings give their owners a comfortable feeling that everything is in order."

Born to a traditional Chinese family engaged in the real estate and food business, Uychaco's fascination with feng shui is a given. A feng shui master was a regular guest in their household, recalls this younger of two siblings (her brother is in the computer business in the United States).

In fact, her family credits an ancient Chinese coin given by a monk for her recovery from a serious childhood illness when she was five. She has been wearing the coin as a health charm since, replacing it with identical coins when time and wear have corroded it.

Credit this amulet too for keeping Uychaco safe during martial law despite her involvement in protest activities. "My parents didn't really know I was an activist, only that I was very active in school and they were very proud of it," she says. "The only time my mother got alarmed was when she got home and saw my friends burning a lot of papers at home. They got a tip that the military would raid our house that day," she adds, laughing.

Diligent and thorough

As in her student days, Uychaco has proven to be as diligent and thorough about feng shui, studying the roots of the beliefs and the origins of Chinese calligraphy, whose modern forms have become a staple subject in her paintings. "Did you know that the Chinese character for wealth reflects an appreciation for nature and the environment?" she asks. The character consists of lines representing heaven and the graces that fall from it, a full mouth, and a cultivated field—what is essentially a definition of "harmony with nature," she points out.

"Feng Shui (which literally means wind and water) rests on the belief that everything has *chi* or energy that affects one's environment, either for better or for worse," the artist explains further. "It's like serving food and putting in ingredients whose colors can either enhance or dampen the appetite. Based on feng shui principles, some days are just better for cleaning the house, signing contracts or closing deals. It's a belief that most companies I've worked with also hold true."

Taking on feng shui symbols in her art started as an aesthetic compromise. "A feng shui master suggested that I fill my home with these glittery stuff and symbols to entice good fortune," recounts Uychaco. But the stuff was kitschy at best and did not exactly fit the ambience she wanted for her house. "I asked, would it be alright if I painted the symbols instead in a form that I like, and he said yes. So I started giving these symbols a modern interpretation, and giving away some of my work to friends. To my surprise, these friends thought I was wasting my talent hiding it, so they pooled their resources and opened an art gallery that showcases my art exclusively. That has given me tremendous exposure," she says of the Art Elements gallery at Rockwell Power Plant Mall in Makati.

Rooted in heritage

More than their supposed power to attract wealth, Uychaco's paintings have been described as exhibiting a style that is "distinct, minimalist, rich in texture, modern but rooted in ancient heritage." Her background in sculpture is evident as well in her use of charms, amulets, Chinese coins, colorful masks, ethnic beads, jade, soft stones and other feng shui elements as part of her paintings.

Uychaco's inclination for the arts started way back when she was in grade school. "I noticed that art was my favorite subject and I would stay up all night to finish art projects. Occasionally, I'd win in art contests."

Though she took up Literature and Journalism in college and worked for a time as managing editor of Computer Digest, she eventually went back to art "because martial law wasn't the best time to write," she says. Taking up art lessons at the Ayala Museum surprised even her. "I noticed that I could paint very fast, finishing three pieces in one sitting while my classmates had to finish their work at home. Even the art instructors thought I was a professional and shortly after, they featured my works in the Ayala discovery series."

The art sessions went on intermittently even while Uychaco traveled extensively and took on corporate positions. "Getting involved with management and traveling to other countries expanded my perspective, I guess," she muses. "For instance, I saw how Singapore has become a major player in the telecom business. How can a small country with no resources—not even water of its own—have so much wealth? Working with management, I began to understand how wealth was created. I realized that change can come through other ways, not just by rebelling against the establishment. Productivity is a major factor. We must maximize our opportunities," says this former Globe VP for Sales and Distribution, Retail Marketing and Trade Marketing.

A positive approach

Hard work is essential, she adds. "Military service is compulsory in Singapore while most of our idle youth prefer to play basketball all day in street corners. That's when I decided to take a more positive approach to things. We must work very hard but also look for opportunities for more income."

She did just that when she opened Globe's cell phone load sales and distribution to more players, including students and sari-sari store owners through the *tingi* (retail) system. "I thought we should spread the profit not just among the big dealers but also the small entrepreneurs who have very little capital. Selling load *tingi-tingi* could mean an extra thousand pesos a month, quite a big deal for most families these days."

If Uychaco's managerial skills come across distinctly, credit that to her MBA from the Ateneo Graduate School of Business and her Masters in Business Economics from the University of Asia and the Pacific, not to mention her work experience with such big players as Kuok Properties, Delgado Brothers and Transnational Diversified Group, and the Fontana Resort and Leisure Park. "Straddling both the arts and management has enriched both fields for me," she observes. "Being an artist, I can be creative in looking for solutions, while being a manager has given me the discipline to respect deadlines and finish all art commitments I undertake. One helps the other."

Business sense

The local arts circle can certainly do with some business sense, notes Uychaco. "For instance, some people want to buy paintings from me directly so they'll come out cheaper without the gallery's commission and I'll earn more too. But I don't do that; I understand why galleries need to have a commission—for rent, utilities, personnel, etc. I'm not about to undercut their business because we had a deal and I'll honor that. Besides," she adds, "It's really easier to deal with one party, you just talk to one person."

One isn't likely to find her paintings emblazoned on shirts or gift items either. "Paintings are considered investments and making them available en masse lowers their value so that they become poor investments in the long run," she explains.

In the end, however, it is "the immeasurable pleasure of seeing your paintings as part of another person's home" that keeps Uychaco at her art. "It's so rewarding," she adds, and this time, she's not just talking about the material promises of feng shui. Q

Lizanne Uychaco's paintings can be viewed at the Art Elements Gallery in the Power Plant Mall of Rockwell Makati. Select CitiGold customers can also visit her exhibit at the Hyatt Manila on Feb. 3, as part of Citibank's celebration of Chinese New Year.

Controversies

by Gerry Lirio

Don't label him leftist nor Rightist, but call him passionate

Magdalo lawyer Renato Pulido hates being labelled, but is unabashed in proclaiming his passion for pro-poor, pro-people causes

RODEL ROTONI

AT first glance, this lawyer looks as young as his rebellious clients. Perhaps even as brash.

Roberto Rafael J. Pulido, 41, shows up for the interview wearing a white shirt bearing the red shining sun logo of the Magdalo group, the young soldiers who staged a mutiny at the plush Oakwood residences in Ayala, Makati, in July 2003. He has about 20 other similar shirts.

But the counsel of four Magdalo soldiers who escaped two weeks ago from government detention insists that he is not a Magdalo loyalist. In fact, Pulido adds, when the July 2003 mutiny happened and the wife of one of the young rebels approached him for help, he did not immediately accept the case."I went to see them to check some facts," he says. "And I think they were also checking on me."

While fellow lawyers Homobono Adaza and Argee Guevarra were already talking to reporters about their Magdalo clients, Pulido was still inside their cell, asking the soldiers what they were fighting for. "'Why are you doing this,' I asked. What do you want? Do Senators Ping Lacson and Greg Honasan have anything to do with you?" It was only when he was convinced that "they were sincere, honest young officers who wanted a better Philippines," that he took the case, he claims. "I was very satisfied with their answers. It's in their eyes," he adds.

At some point, Navy Lt. Senior Grade Antonio Trillanes, the Magdalo group's acknowledged leader, decided that Pulido would be their lead counsel. Though a seven year gap exists between him and Trillanes, who's 34, the lawyer says they both want "a better Philippines."

Dreaming big is nothing new to Pulido.

Born and raised in Binakayan, Cavite, he went to good schools—La Salle High School, University of the Philippines, and Ateneo College of Law—although limited family finances made schooling an uphill battle. When he was in high school, his father won a two-seater airplane in a raffle. His father sold the plane to raise funds for his school expenses, he recalls. Despite that, Pulido had to work at the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation at one point while he was in law school.

Those were good times, he says of his law studies. "I was lucky. I was one of those awakened by the assassination of Ninoy (Aquino). There was a time when some faculty members at the University of the Philippines were saying: *'Iyang si* Pulido, student leader—always a leader, never a student.' I was always in the streets rallying. I believed in the saying, 'Don't let your academics interfere with your education.' "

With his political awakening came the desire to prove something. "I tried to find out who these teachers are and enrolled in their classes. I got a 1.0, 1.25; it was something that changed their mind."

After UP, Pulido worked at the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement, a nongovernment organization. "Since college, I have always advocated causes. In fact, I didn't go straight to the corporate world. I went to the countryside and worked with NGOs."

Pro bono

Becoming a lawyer reinforced his belief in cause-oriented work. "In fact, here in my law office, I am the lawyer of the security guards, the waitress in the nearby restaurant. These are all pro bono cases," says Pulido. "When you don't help these people, what does that say about the law profession? The rich can always afford good lawyers."

The Magdalo case is one of those pro bono cases that he takes regularly, he says. "Their cause is just, and that's enough for me."

But he is not a naive bleeding heart liberal, either. "I always tell my kids, young lawyers are always trained. There's really no one outstanding, only those well-prepared for trials and whatever incident or event comes up," says this almost six-footer who always goes to court in a dark suit. He recalls how, during the Senate investigation of alleged fraud in the May 2004 polls, his former client, an ex-Shariah judge, suddenly turned around in favor of First Gentleman Mike Arroyo.

The judge was much older, but Pulido came more prepared. "From out of the blue, he called us saying he wanted to testify against the First Gentleman. I don't know him first-hand but he said he wanted to tell the truth. He accused Mike Arroyo of many things. I brought a tape recorder. I said, if he objects to the tape recorder, we wouldn't take the case. I didn't want to be used." When the judge later accused the lawyer of setting him up, Pulido brought out the tape and played it before the entire Senate body. He had more than that, he told the Senate, but that was going beyond the secrecy of lawyer-client relationship. "I was still protecting his interests. But when he started attacking my credibility and maliciously said things against me, I had no choice but to bring out the truth."

A matter of packaging

Sometimes, lawyering is a matter of packaging, he says. "My clients have always known me to be a very passionate person and lawyer." The problem, he adds, is that these days, he is perceived mainly as the Magdalo lawyer. "But all my clients know that I am equally passionate about their cases."

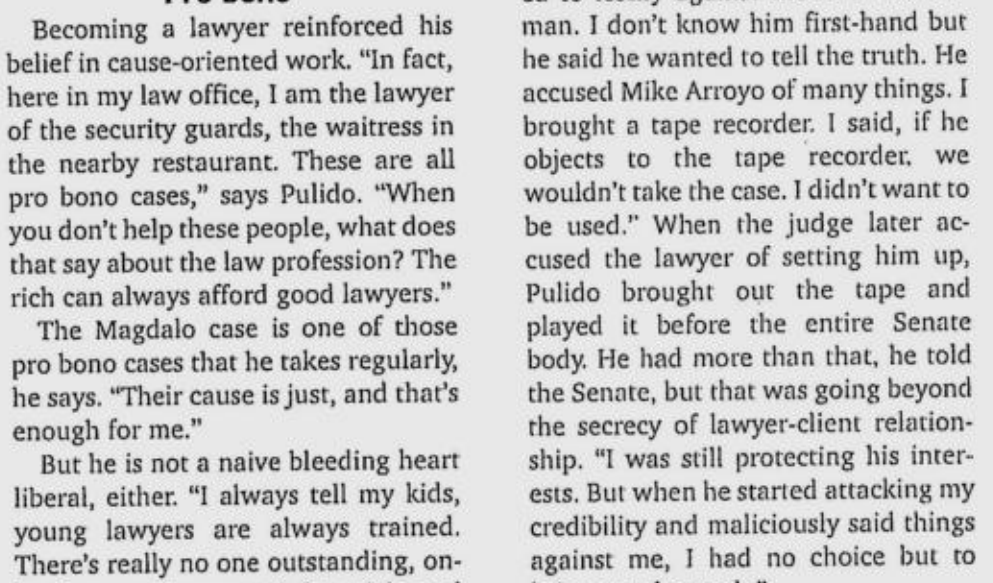
Pulido says he never thought he would end up defending people fighting the government, and claims he is neither a rightist nor a leftist. "I don't believe in labels," he says. "The rightists are calling me leftist, the Left is calling me rightist. Somehow, I like that, people are forced to discover who I am. They go beyond the label. I believe labels blind people. I really don't know if I can be classified as leftist or rightist; I only become anti-establishment if the situation demands it. I can only say that I am pro-poor, pro-people."

His wife, Simonette, is also a lawyer whose law firm handles the case of retired Brig. Gen. Franciso Gudani, who was named in the controversial "Hello Garci" tapes that allegedly show fraud in the 2004 elections. The couple has three girls, while Pulido has a 16-year-old son from a previous marriage.

The lawyer credits his grandfather for his passion. The old man was a three-time vice governor of Cavite, but died a poor man. He was a model of hard work, says Pulido, cleaning up everything he could and finding something to do.

He is apparently as passionate about the Magdalo boys. He believes in their cause, he says, otherwise he would not have accepted the case. "People always say (the Magdalo soldiers) were used by politicians. I believe otherwise. They probably used some politicians, but they're not the type you can easily fool. In Oakwood, the boys were calling the shots."

Despite the vicarious publicity that the case has brought him, Pulido says he wants the Oakwood story wrapped up. "I want the turmoil to end, and I hope the ending would mean victory for the general public."



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Family passions: Pulido with wife Simonette, also a lawyer, and their three daughters

Poetry

Coffee Mug

Near the bread crumbs
and the sparse sugar frost
stands a mug,
in solitude,
a bodhisattva
lapping his jappa beads,
reluctant,
establishing eye contact
with its silhouette, its soul,
visible in the windowglass.
It perched like a portrait
on an easel,
contemplating
the thick breath of the patron's
exhalation: human odor ingesting
the aroma of the __mocha
undulating from its mouth.

Some minutes back,
a sleepy hand—
resembling a fisherman's rod
that have rested like a blade
between the meteors and the sea—
left its fingerprint
on the mug,
a fossil of mercurial memory
marking its passing on a stone,
wounding its lip with the sharpness
of his teeth.

In the interior
are layers upon layers
of broken rings
like lacerations on a wrist,
like cat scratches,
like railroad tracks
with trains resting on their spines
in the secretive cobalt night.
Narrowing to the dome
reaching rock bottom,
they become patches,
stains of saddle brown
forming small maps of visible scars.

And then a spoon's handle
becomes a forefinger
and surfaces from the shallow;
perturbed like eyes
emerging from a cupped hand,
upon hearing
alchemical voices
enticing and scheming
a rise against the state of things,
exploding in the kaffeeklatsch
from the inside.

Mark Angeles

Leticia Ramos Shahani

Haydee B. Yorac

Ligaya Fernando Amilbangsa

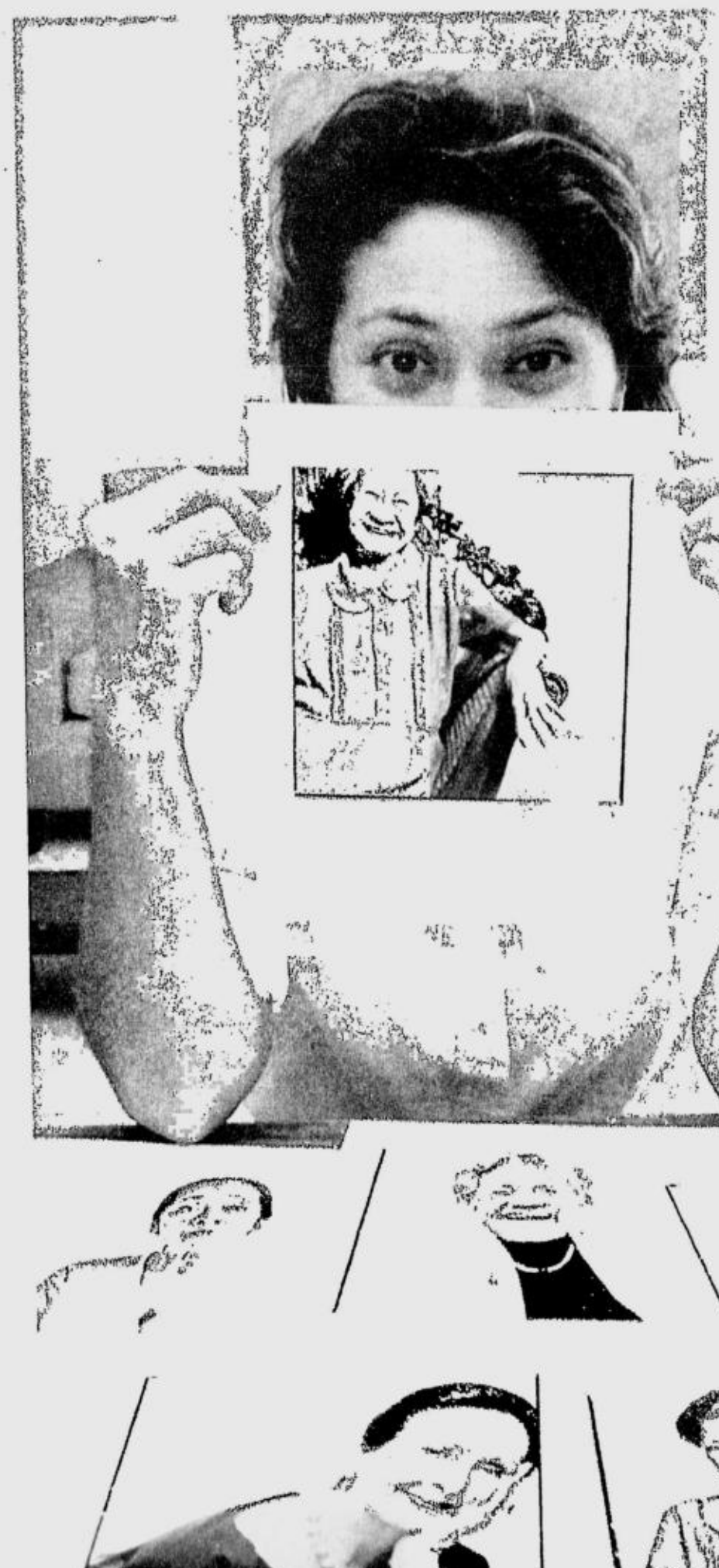
Maria Isabel Ongpin

Fe Del Mundo

Nena del Rosario Villanueva

Gloria Borrego-Galla

Lourdes R. Montinola



Very, very wise: Lorenzo normally shuns portraits, but these women were different

Isa ...from page 1

the ICP, according to Lorenzo, is "primarily a community of people who eat, live and breathe photography."

In the company of such people, Lorenzo began to eat, live and breathe photography herself, to the point where she eventually decided to take a masters' degree in photography at the prestigious Parsons School of Design, where she promptly got her first reality check.

Individuality

"I was doing crap work," she admits. "Pretty pictures. My first critique in class, they took one look at my work and asked, what's the point? They look like every postcard we've seen. Where's the individuality?"

Considering that her lecturers included living legends such as Richard Avedon, Annie Leibowitz and the venerable Andre Kertesz, it was a question that Lorenzo couldn't ignore. She was soon cured of her "pretty pictures" affliction.

Along the way she also got massive doses of art theory: surrealism, dada, postmodernism. Apparently, learning how to take photos is only a very small percentage of photography education.

"The rest is learning how to see, and how to communicate your message through photography." In other words, the why of photography.

"You realize that you just have to stick to it," she adds. "Don't do your work to please other people. At the end of the day, you have to go to sleep at peace with yourself and proud of it."

After finishing her studies, Lorenzo's next step was to dip her toes in the world of professional photography, where she promptly got her second reality check: It's a harsh world out there.

"She was a bitch and a half," Lorenzo recalls of a certain noted photographer whom she worked for as an assistant. "But you couldn't complain because you were going on huge shoots for 'Vanity Fair'."

Another noted photographer, she confides, has had three assistants who killed themselves. Many great photographers, she realized, are difficult people because they demand a lot, of their assistants as well as themselves, and because they put everything second to the final image.

'Adobo' and home

Throughout her stay, Lorenzo was soaking all of this up, and not even 9/11, which happened right outside her apartment window, could distract her. But while waiting for the dust of the twin towers to clear, she found herself eating *adobo* and thinking of home.

"Coming from a milieu like that and trying to replicate the free flow of ideas, it was very important for me to have a space that treats photography as a religion of sorts," says Lorenzo.

The result was Silver Lens Gallery, which Lorenzo opened last year at the Fort, one of only two galleries in Manila devoted exclusively to photography.

"The gallery came to fruition as a venue for my own work," she says. "I saw all of these spaces which I felt were more for commerce. The shows are so short here, two weeks max, and they do that because they have to make money. I wanted to find a space that would really put the time and effort into the curatorial element—editing, narrative, telling a story, documenting, space layout and lighting configuration, the introductory text and the marketing of the show."

With its recessed lighting, hardwood floors and sense of timeless space, the first Silver Lens looked more like a shrine to photography than a mere gallery. This seemed to be the idea—to inspire in the viewer a kind of reverence for what is on view.

"The challenge is how to educate people into seeing that photography is just as much art as painting or the more traditional media."

The challenge is all the more difficult because of the media-saturated world in which we currently live, where the average person is constantly bombarded with images, from billboards to television to the Internet to cellphone picture messages. The result of this visual overload is to blunt, rather than heighten, the way we see pictures, and to cheapen the individual image as a transient commodity rather than something of lasting value.

Low-rent

On top of that, photography is still considered in many circles a low-rent profession. Glamorous, perhaps, but still low-rent—a species of skilled labor on the same level as, say, automotive mechanics or electronics repair.

Lorenzo's mission with Silver Lens is to change all that, first by showing only a photographer's personal work, and second by treating it with the same kind of respect accorded to painters or sculptors or filmmakers. The gallery pays painstaking attention to details such as image selection and sequencing, print and paper quality, mounting and lighting. Silver Lens offers viewers the kind of space where they can look at a photograph, and really see it.

The effort seems to be paying off. So far, all of the shows at Silver Lens have been able to pay for themselves. At the very least, they've allowed photographers to recoup their expenses, or attract new clients. The gallery has also attracted a small but well-heeled clientele with a taste for photography, some of whom eventually become serious collectors. Recently, a commissioned print fetched the more-than-respectable sum of P120,000—a sign that art photography has come of age at last. And although Silver Lens is currently on hiatus, pending its reopening in March at a new venue, it is fully booked well into next year, with a growing waiting list of photographers eager to show their personal best.

Ironically, while fulfilling on its own terms, Lorenzo's efforts on behalf of other photographers has left her precious little time to pursue her own work. This is why her current exhibit at the Cultural Center of the Philippines took her three years to complete.

Strong and timeless

"Filipinas" is an exhibit of 30 portraits of outstanding Filipino women, most of them in their seventies. Among her subjects are former president Corazon Aquino, the late Haydee Yorac, publisher Eugenia Apostol, economist Solita Monsod, actress Gloria Romero, Teresita Ang-See, Dr. Fe del Mundo, painter Anita Magsaysay-Ho, businesswoman Socorro Ramos and writers Carmen Guerrero-Nakpil and Gilda Cordero-Fernando.

"All my life I have been fascinated by the Filipina and how she holds power within our societal system, how they manage this power by taking on pivotal roles, and how they use this power to quietly come into their own," Lorenzo wrote in her introduction to the exhibit. "The result of their individual journeys is what I'm interested in: strong, timeless Filipinas with a humanity that transcends history and legacy."

Strangely enough, Lorenzo's favorite photographic subjects are landscapes without people.

"I don't really like shooting people," she confesses. "I think portraiture is so incomplete. When you take a picture of somebody, they don't look like that, or sound or act like the way they look."

In most cases, anyway. Lorenzo's subjects in "Filipinas" are exceptions.

"The thing about these women is, they've reached a point in their lives when they don't care what people think of them, so they're very, very candid and very, very wise. They're not pretentious. All of these women have this air of 'I am what I am. I make no apologies for myself, I just do my job'."

"I guess I want to become one of these women," she says. "I want to look back on my life and say, I'm still working and I love what I do'."

When that happens, medicine's loss would have been photography's gain. Q

"Filipinas" *runs until March 12 at the Cultural Center of the Philippines' Bulwagang Juan Luna*

This Week

Art

Light for Life. A photo exhibit by photographer and graphic artist Edwin Loyola will feature some of his award-winning photos, including those which have won him the National Geographic Channel Expeditons contest and Sony photo contest. Part of the proceeds will be given to the children of PALCARE (UP-PGH) and the Aid for Basilan Children Fund of Philam Foundation. Exhibit runs until Jan. 30. For inquiries, call the 526-9250 or 526-9272.

Edwin Loyola's winning piece in National Geographic Expeditions, shot in New Mexico, USA

Alex Aguilar and Nolet Soliven reunite in **Luci The Gnat**, an exhibit featuring their dynamism as friends and as individual artists. As testament to their camaraderie, Aguilar and Soliven will be collaborating on a mural painted directly on the wall of the Mag:net Gallery. Exhibit will open on Feb. 2 and will run until Feb. 28. Mag:net Gallery is located at The Loop, ELJ Center, ABS-CBN compound, Mother Ignacia Avenue corner Eugenio Lopez St. QC. For inquiries, call 410-0995 or e-mail magnetplus@gmail.com.

Music

70s Bistro features **Blues Echoes with Cooky Chua and Lyn Shermann** on vocals on Jan. 31, 9:30 p.m. 70s Bistro is located at 46 Anonas St. Project 2 QC. For more information, call 434-3597.

Christopher de Leon releases his first album

Christopher de Leon will launch his first album titled **Mga Awit Pelikula Ni Christopher de Leon** under Viva Records at The Podium on Feb. 8. The album features Christopher's version of famous movie theme songs like "*Bituing Walang Ningning*," "You Are My Song" and "*Sinasamba Kita*." Songs from composer Ryan Cayabyab, Ogie Alcasid, Willy Cruz, George Canseco and Rey Valera are also included in the album.

Onstage

Zsazsa Zaturnnah: Ze Muzikal. Carlo Vergara's graphic novel *"Ang Kagila-Gilalas Na Pakikipagsapalaran ni Zsazsa Zaturnnah"* will be staged at the Tanghalang Huseng Batute on Feb. 10 to Feb 12, Feb. 18 to Feb. 19, Feb. 24 to Feb. 26 and March 3 to March 5. Zsazsa Zaturnnah is about a Ada, a gay hairdresser, who turns into a superhero by swallowing a magical stone. The play features Eula Valdez, Agot Isidro, Tuxqs Rutaquio, Ricci Chan, Lauren Novero, Arnold Reyes, Deeda Barretto, Wilma Doesnt, Mayen Estañero, Tess Jamias and the Tanghalang Pilipino's Actors' Company

For inquiries and ticket reservations, call Tanghalang Pilipino at 832-3661 or 832-1125 locals 1620 and 1621 or e-mail ccptanghalan@yahoo.com.

The Sining-Lahi Polyrepertory, The Resident Student Theater Group of PUP, will stage Musikat's **"*Sino Ka Ba* Jose Rizal?"** an Original Pilipino Musical, book by Rene Villanueva, music and lyrics by Nonoy Gallardo, production design by Jesus "Bobot" Lota with musical direction by Rommel Benedicto on Feb. 2, 3, 4, 6 and 7 with performances at 1:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. at Bulwagang Balagtas, PUP Main Campus Library. For inquiries, contact Jack or Riki at 0919-6388115 or 0927-2404533.

Repertory Philippines will stage **Nobody's Perfect** by Simon Williams. Nobody's Perfect is a different kind of love story made more interesting by the snippets of the novel that Leonard continues to write throughout the play, the snappy one-liner dialogue and the funny characters. Shows on Feb. 3, and Feb. 4 at 8 p.m., For inquiries, call 887-0710 or 891-9999.

Uyayi ng Ulan. A play written by Nicolas Pichay will be staged on Feb. 7 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Tolentino (Little Theater) as part of The CCP Simbuyo! University Theaterfest. Uyayi is about compassion, spirituality and faith—every bit of human wickedness portrayed by characters to reflect issues of prostitution and racial discrimination. For inquiries, call the CCP Performing Arts Division at 832-2314 or 832-1125 local 1606 or visit www.culturalcenter.gov.ph.

Nolet Soliven's "Untitled," from the Luci the Gnat exhibit at the Mag:net Gallery

Pinoy Nga!

Vulcanizing Shop

The SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE welcomes listings of events in and outside Metro Manila. Please send announcements at least two weeks in advance, and include contact numbers for inquiries on schedules

Food

Hyatt and Casino Manila is celebrating the **first anniversay of Li Li**, the hotel's signature outlet, and the Year of the Dog with Chinese traditional specialties. Li Li will showcase an authentic menu of Cantonese cuisine. For inquiries and reservations, call 245-1234.

Hyatt Hotel's Li Li Cantonese lobster treat

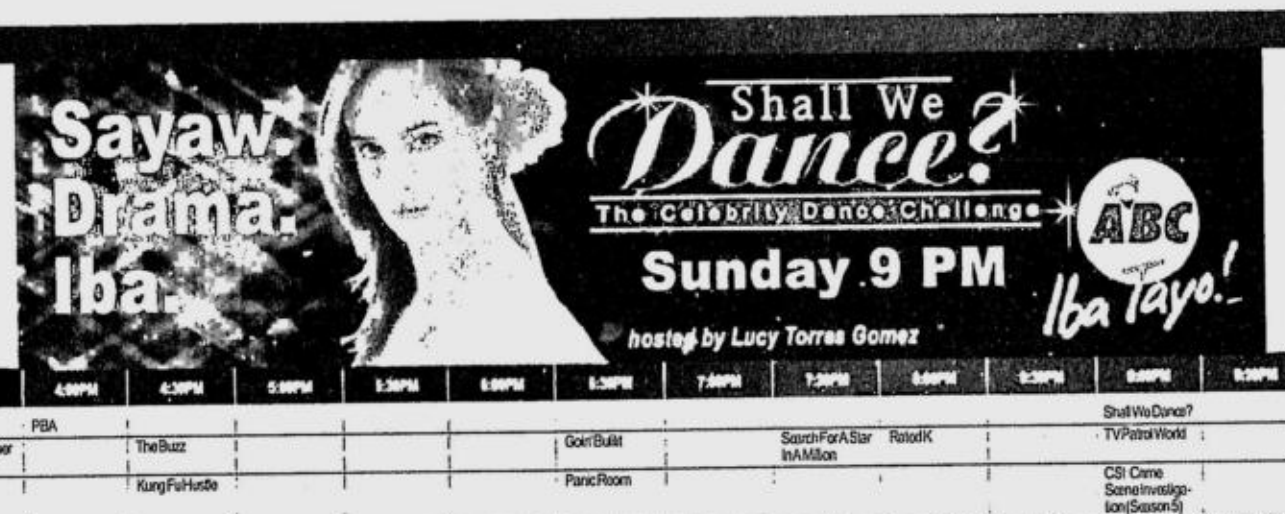
Atbp

The Hairdressers and Cosmetologists Association of the Philippines invites all hairdressers and salon owners to join its **Silver Jubilee: Open Hairstyling and Makeup Competition** on Feb. 20, 8 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Philippine Trade Training Center. Discounted beauty and hair products will also be on sale during the event. For inquiries, contact Tessie Atienza at 731-4371 or 742-8188. You can also look for Nick Diaz or Emmie Mole at 895-1231 or 253-8521.

Cooking for Two. Gear up for Valentine's day as Chef Gino teaches you how to prepare a delectable meal for two.Learn to prepare prosciutto and olive pasta, salmon fillet with dill creme reduction and other tasty treats. For inquiries, call the Center for Asian Culinary Studies at 726-9326 or 725-5089.

To address the growing need of many companies to beat competition, The Corporate Mind Management Consultancy and Executive Training presents **Transforming Experience to Expertise**—an innovative sales training course from Feb. 1 to Feb.3 from 1 pm. to 6 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Galleria Manila on ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. For inquiries, call 687-7898 or 0919-8763770.

The UP Film Institute will be having its **Production Management Workshop** scheduled for Feb. 15, 16, 17, 22, 23 and 24. The workshop presents an overview of the practices and procedures relating to the logistical and business side of film and video production.The workshop focuses on preparing budgets for independent audiovisual productions and mainstream, feature-length film productions.Workshop directors will be Mads Adrias, executive producer of Furball Productions and Amor Olaguer, UP Film Institute, studio executive for Star Cinema. For inquiries, e-mail bjorki71@yahoo.com or call 925-0286, 926-3640 look for Laisa.



PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

TV GUIDE

Sunday, January 29, 2006

Provided by ClickTheCity.com

For more TV schedules:

1. **Visit www.ClickTheCity.com or wap.clickthecity.com.**
2. **Key in CTC TV and send to 2333 for Globe and to 225 for Smart. PhP2.50 per SMS sent.**

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
ABC 5		Ringside TV		PBA					Goin'Bulilit		Search For A Star In A Million	Rated K		Shall We Dance?	TV Patrol World	Rockstar Inks	Sunday Family Cinema	Charlotte Church	
ABS-CBN 2	A.S.A.P Fanatics		Pinoy Big Brother Buzz		The Buzz														
AXN					Kung Fu Hustle				Panic Room					CSI Crime Scene Investigation (Season 5)		CSI NY (Season I)		CSI Miami (Season II)	
Cartoon Network	X-Men Evolution	Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	Xiaolin Showdown	Tom & Jerry Show		Codename Kids Next Door		The Grim Adventures Of Billy & Mandy	Teen Titans	Samurai Jack	The Life & Times Of Juniper Lee	Powerpuff Girls	Courage The Cowardly Dog	Dexter's Laboratory	Crush Gear Nitro	Power Rangers Ninja Storm	Superman The Animated Series	Aqua Teen Hunger Force	Harvey Birdman (11:45PM)
Cinema One				Mano Po 2				Mano Po 3: My Love				Monkey King				TBA			
Cinemax	Precious Victims			Necessary Roughness			The Adventures Of Brisco Country Jr.			2 Fast 2 Furious (7:15 PM)				Pterodactyl			Feeling Minnesota		
CNN	International Correspondents	World News	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	World News	Design 360	World News	World Sport	Larry King Live		World News	Talk Asia	World News	Main Sail	World News	World Sport	Global Challenges	Business Traveller	Talk Asia	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart
Discovery Channel		Beyond Tomorrow		American Chopper		The Greatest Ever		Mythbusters		Hour Asia		Hour China		1421: The Year China Discovered America				Power Zone	
Disney Channel	Recess	Totally Spies	Lizzie Maguire	Brandy & Mr. Whiskers	Lilo & Stitch	Buzz on Maggie	Mr. Bean	Phil Of The Future	Suite Life Of Zack And Cody	That's So Raven	Wonderful World Of Disney			Mr. Bean	America's Funniest Home Video	Phil Of The Future	Even Stevens	Wonderful World Of Disney	
ESPN		Pro Billiards 2005 Men's Intl. Challenge		2005 Kaohsiung World Pool C'ship				Boxing Series Friday Night Fights				Sportscenter Asia	College Football Bowl Game '06 Senior Bowl						Motorsport Asia
ETC		Veronica Mars		American Dreams 2		Saturday Night Live		One Tree Hill 2		Rated Ohl 3	The Insider Weekend	Queer Eye For The Straight Guy		ET Weekend		Nip/Tuck			
EWTN	Pilgrimages To The Shrines Of Eastern Europe	Angelus (3:15 PM)	The Donut Man	Adventures In Odyssey	Deep Conversation: Deep Prayer	Rosary With Mother Angelica	Octavia Dies	Rome Reports	EWTN Bookmark	EWTN Global Showcase		Onward Pilgrims	Mirror Of The Soul	Sunday Mass (SAP) Live			Life Is Worth Living	The Abundant Life	
Fox News		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox Report Saturday		Heartland With John Kasich		Big Story Weekend Edition		Beltway Boys	Fox News Watch	Fox & Friends Sunday						Fox News Live	
GMA 7	Gigsters	Love To Love		S-Files				Maimwogang Baul		Starstruck 3		Mel & Joey		All Star K		Daddy Di Do Du		Sunday Night Box Office	
Hallmark Channel	The Nanny	The Nanny	The Yeltsin Project				Straight From The Heart			Naughty Or Nice (7:10 PM)				Earthsea					
HBO		Beethoven's 2nd (3:15 PM)			Nick Of Time (4:45 PM)			Michale's Navy (6:15 PM)				Lethal Weapon			Wolf (9:45 PM)				
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop	Mr. Tasman	Home Shopping Network		Home Shopping Network		Legacy Of Hero		Jomah Movie On Prime/mo Weekend				Iyo Ang Katarungan	EL SHADDAI		
Jack TV	Arrested Development	Arrested Development	Arrested Development	Family Guy	Dr. Katz	Afterburn		Smackdown				Jack In The Box				South Park	Dr. Katz	Comedy Central Presents	Premium Blend
Lifestyle Network	Date With Design	Ground Rules	Outer Spaces	Your Private Island	Breathing Room	Back To Basics	Barefoot Contessa	Everyday Italian	Ciao America With Mario	Food Network Special		E! Entertainment Special						Clean House	
MTV Philippines	MTV Hits		Laguna Beach	MTV Cribs	MTV Hits	Viva La Bam	Pimp My Ride	Get Hitch'd	MTV Screen	The 70's House	Spring Break	MTV Presents				Whatever Things	MTV Hits	Essential VH1	
MYX		Pinoy MYX Countdown				Take 5	MYX Bandarito	MYX News	Star MYX	MYX LOG	Pop MYX	MYX Presents		MYX Hit Chart				MYX Backdraw	OPM MYX
National Geographic		No Borders				Critter cam: Wild-lach Adventure	Monkey Business	Amazing Moments		Taiwan To The World		Megastructures		Microkillers Wrok		No Borders			
NBN				Paco Park Presents		Kamao Sa Kamao		Tinging Bayan (Live)			Inter-Aksyon Sa Bayan	Battle Royale		The Sports List	TBA		Business & Leisure		Unlimited Diving
Nickelodeon	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Unfabulous	Naturally Sadie	Romeo	Drake & Josh	Zoey 101	Avatar The Last Airbender	Danny Phantom	Colscratch	SpongeBob SquarePants	The Fairly Odd Parents	Dark Oracle	Zoey 101	Unfabulous	Girls In Love	Ned's Declassified School Survival Guide	Four Eyes	The Wild Thornberrys	The Brothers Garcia
PBO			She-Man (Mistress Of The Universe)		Oo Na, Sige Na				Hanggang Dito Na Lang				OA Sa Hits				Sinasamba Kita		
Qtv		Baywalk		Joan Of Arcadia		Ginang Fashionista		Ang Pinaka...		Pop Star Kids		May Tatahol Ka		Sunday Super Sine				MINT (Music Interactive)	
RPN 9		Golf Power	Auto Extreme	Fisforama		JAG		JAG		Navy Nds		Without A Trace		NBA On RPN				Sure Hits	The Working President
SBN 21				Buhay Pinoy		Shepherd's Voice		New Life				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Gabay At Aksyon			
Solar Sports			TV Shopping	Copenhagen Masters 2005		FIVB World Champ Cup Men's Event: Egy vs USA		GWS Ep.57-2005	NBA Jam	NBA Game: Bobcats @ Wizards					Thunder Strikes Again: Gotivs Damgaard				
Sports Plus				ACC Basketball: Valparaiso @ Duke				World Game		Raceworld		Ray Ban Celebrity Poker Challenge				Buick Invitational Day 3			
Star Movies					The Girl Next Door (4:45 PM)				Cold Mountain (6:25 PM)					Around The World In Eighty Days				Black Hawk Down	
Star World		Man Vs Beast/ Scrubs (Series 2)		North Shore		Business Week Asia	Travel Asia	Smallville		Malcolm In The Middle (Series 5)	The Kumars At No. 42	Little Britain (Series 3)		Kofee With Karan		Friends		The Simpsons	Malcolm In The Middle (Series 5)
Studio 23								Nanny		Y Spank		Joey	Living With Fran	Will & Grace	F	Digital Tour (10:15PM)	Chefs On The Go (10:45PM)		Buffy The Vampire Slayer

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.

Seen on TV

by Ruel S. De Vera
photographs by Raffy Lerma

It's not your set, folks: It's not the '80s anymore, but that's really Alejar

With his talk show 'Jojo A. All The Way!' an emerging cult hit, the '80s teen star is making the most of this unexpected second chance at showbiz success

VEN when he's just walking across the set, in a sleek suit and tie, Jojo Alejar always looks like he's dancing. There is a gonzo grace, a poised confidence that seems almost rehearsed. He shakes hands heartily, adding quickly, "I love you, my man!" He is the happiest man on Philippine TV, as well as the most unlikely success story on air today. "What I'm saying on the air, it's just me," he says of his daily gig.

Alejar, now 39 (he looks more like he's in his early 20s), is the writer-producer-host of "Jojo A. All The Way!...," which airs on RJTV at 9 p.m. weeknights. According to the graphics, the show doesn't just air live, but airs "LIVE!!!"

The show, a guerilla hit if ever there was one, is best exemplified by Alejar's tiny dressing room, complete with a star. "But I'm the only one with a dressing room of my own here," he says proudly, sipping from a mug that bears his caricature. This unabashed joy at being back on TV is what has brought him back from the encroaching obscurity that arrived at the end of the 1980s, back when people learned how to fly high.

Alfredo Rizalito P. Alejar was born on June 19, the same day as Jose Rizal, hence the Rizalito and "Jojo," derived from the national hero's first name. "I don't really like my name too much, but I'm stuck with it," says this fifth of six boys born to businessman Alfredo and Leticia Alejar. All of the Alejar children are named Alfredo with a different second name. Older brother Toby was also an actor. He would sing and dance at every opportunity at Marist School in Marikina. "I was known more as a singer then," he remembers. But his truly extraordinary gift lay in dancing, which was the in thing then. Together with a brother and a friend, he formed the Tigers, which gained popularity dancing in preppy clothes to Michael Jackson's "P.Y.T.," becoming regulars on GMA 7's "Penthouse Live" up to 1984.

With the 'masa'

Then he moonwalked his way into the inaugural batch of German Moreno's "That's Entertainment" as part of the Wednesday edition. He enjoyed a thriving career and appeared in three movies, including a role in the unintentionally hilarious *"Huwag Mong Buhayin Ang Bangkay* (Don't Resurrect The Corpse)." He loved hosting, handling the mike on "Saturday Entertainment" and "GMA Supershow" as well.

That was a heady time. "I'm happy about it. It was my way of touching base with the *masa*. I think God has ways of humbling you and bringing you down to earth. I learned so much then, especially when it came to reaching out," he recalls. Moreno was quite influential, he says, when it came to professionalism, and the two still talk to this day.

But despite the show's blinding popularity, Alejar could see the end coming.

"I knew 'That's' was a sinking ship. I told *Kuya* Germs as much because I was really vocal." He had grown wary of the overly large cast and advocated a return to the compact original concept. "It had turned into a survival of the fittest." Shortly thereafter, Alejar would leave "That's" to take some short courses in the States.

When he returned from the US, Alejar worked quietly in real estate marketing and planned to go into trading. He also became a consultant for some aspiring politicians. His good buddy Ed Zialcita ran as Parañaque Representative, won, and designated Alejar as chief of staff.

"It's very fulfilling work and I've tried it out, but I wanted to do something else," he says of the job that had him handling meetings and other political stuff. Before the last election in 2004, Alejar resigned and plunged back into entertainment.

Like Conan O'Brien

Radio beckoned and, using his handle, "Jojo A.," Alejar espoused politics and business along with good friend Sandy Hontiveros on "Sandy Talks With Jojo A." on dzRJ. When that ended, Alejar thought it was time to do his own show. "I told (station owner) Mr. (Ramon) Jacinto that I had always wanted to do a talk show where I would just laugh at everything and look at the lighter side of things, like Conan O'Brien, Jay Leno and David Letterman."

Alejar got cracking on his new show, choosing the name and furniture for the set and deciding along the way to localize the show's content. "All the Way" started airing live on May 10, 2004, election day, from 9 to 10 p.m. live. Employing the familiar format of an opening monologue, together with guests and a band, Alejar developed something of a cult following on the frontier of UHF. He wrote and produced the show. Despite the lack of facilities and a virtually non-existent audience, he went on, every night, waiting for a break.

Then, it came. The cable giant Skycable used to broadcast RJTV from the Siberia of channel 61, way past where channel surfers would click. But when Skycable reshuffled its channel lineup, RJTV suddenly found itself on channel 19, right on the frontline of clicking. To mix myths, King Midas lightly touched the boulder Sisyphus was holding up.

Disbelief and amusement

Suddenly, an entirely new audience, in a combination of disbelief and amusement, gawked at Alejar's jokes and at the offbeat procession of guests, ranging from politicians to standup comedians. Plus the Pining Garcia Band and the Mardel International Dancers, of course. Alejar felt the difference immediately. "We had a growing following but now it really caught on. It was really fast. It really helped a lot." Sponsors have begun sending feelers, as have larger networks, according to Alejar. He feels a great amount of gratitude to Jacinto for trusting him with a live show: "I'm very happy with RJ. If it did happen, it would only be for the purpose of bringing more fun, laughter and information to the audience."

Perhaps no moment was as emblematic of his newfound "so-square-he's-cool" energy as when he was invited to open last year's MTV Pilipinas Awards. "I was received very well, considering most of the audience there were from a younger audience bracket," he says with a smile. "It worked because it was all fun."

Too much to say: Alejar doesn't care if people think he's *"baduy"*

He identifies with the transformation of the title character in Jim Carrey's "Bruce Almighty," trusting that he would find his way to where he was best suited. "I look so young for my age. I'm not that tall. But I have a serious side to me and people don't accept me as someone who has a serious side. That's always been a dilemma for me. That's why when I was in Congress, I had to work doubly hard so people will see I'm all business, which I am."

Never had a facial

His hair stays the same and he looks almost exactly like he did in his "That's" halcyon days. Being from an active family, he chalks this up to clean living and a lot of his beloved tennis. Despite impressions, Alejar says he isn't vain and hasn't had a facial in his life.

PDI PHOTO

Preppy: Alejar moonwalked to fame as a dancer in the '80s

That face is smiling a lot these days in his reinvention as a comedian. "I was in very serious work for three years and now I really enjoy doing comedy," Alejar explains. He certainly isn't above laughing at himself, which he considers part of the territory, as is the ribbing he gets. He has no problems with being seen as *baduy* (tacky).

"Back in the '80s, all that wasn't *baduy*. I'm really over all that. Now I've learned to accept things about myself and about how other people accept me."

He's also accepted new challenges, like a broader array of acting roles. He played a gay man in 2004's "inter.m@tes," a gangster in *"Mga Batang Bangketa"* and a familiar comedic part in "Moments of Love"; the last two movies will open this year.

He is upbeat about a new album he's putting together, a recording with swing and jazz in it. He has actually been writing songs for other performers all this time, among them Janno Gibbs and Bayani Agbayani. Alejar even scored a hit by penning the lyrics to Janine Desiderio's *"Hindi Ako Si Darna,"* a Tagalog takeoff of Karyn White's "Superwoman."

He loses himself working in his little studio in his Fairview home, something he started doing to de-stress himself from congressional work. He is also looking forward to getting married to fiancée Anna, whom he met while working in Congress.

Also in the works is a coffee shop called Jojo A.'s Cafe-Coffee All The Way, which will feature the more nutritious rice coffee.

Too positive

Alejar explains that people sometimes find him too positive, an attitude fueled by his dedication, he claims. "I didn't do the show to be popular again but so I could vent all the things inside me every night. It's therapy after working in Congress, reading the papers and seeing how people feel now. And it worked."

Despite being older and wiser, he still channels that slightly naughty, *pilosopo* vibe night in and night out over RJTV in Makati. Micromanager that he is, he arrives at the studio and looks through his notes, even making his own idiot boards. All he wants is to be able to do the show for a really long time. "I am the kind of person who has much too much to say," Alejar says.

Strange as it is, he is one of a select group who has been able to reclaim fame and emerge more popular than ever. If people used to kid him about being a has-been, they don't anymore. When the weeknights come, Jojo Alejar puts on his coat, steps in front of the lights and, suddenly, he is walking on the moon again. Q